

JPRS 76368

5 September 1980

Near East/North Africa Report

No. 2176

EGYPT: OPPOSITION PRESS COVERAGE

21 April-June 1980



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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21 APRIL-JUNE 1980

AL-AHRAR, Weekly Publication of Socialist Liberals Party

AL-SHA'B, Weekly Publication of Socialist Workers Party

AL-DA'WAH, Monthly Publication of the Muslim Brotherhood

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COUNTRY SAID LOSING ITS AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 21 Apr 80 p 2

[Article by Engineer Mahmud Fawzi: "Who Is Responsible for Monster Devouring Food Security; Million Feddans of Cultivable Lands Lost by Egypt in 25 Years"]

[Text] There is a fearful monster that has engaged in the game of destroying the food security sources for nearly a quarter century.

This monster is not as you know it but one that is called the "encroachment on cultivable lands."

What is surprising is that we have played the role of movie spectators. We have sat on our seats watching and wondering at what is happening in front of us, unaware that our turn has come. The monster has devoured so far more than one million feddans of the best cultivable lands.

This serious situation has led to the presence of villages where agricultural lands and green spaces have almost disappeared, such as the village of Mit 'Uqbah, Warraq al-Hadar and al-'Arab in the district of Ambabah, the villages of al-Kanisah, Abu al-Namras, 'Izbat al-Munyib, Nazlat al-Siman, Nazlat al-Batran, al-Kawn al-Akhdar and al-Hawamidiyah in al-Jizah, the villages of (al-Tubayn and Kafr al-'Uluw) in al-Saff District, al-Basatin and hundreds of other villages where agricultural lands are about to disappear.

The phenomenon of scooping away soil from agricultural lands is widespread in villages close to the cities. Even in villages where there are no cinder block plants, furnaces are built to bake local blocks, called (qama'in). The price of surface soil scooped from one feddan to a depth of one meter, i.e. the soil fit for cultivation, has reached 10,000 pounds. This is happening even though the law does not permit scooping to a depth of more than 25 centimeters. However, this law is kept in the bureaucratic desk drawers for immortal memory.

Agricultural Engineer 'Abd-al-Razzaq Badawi, the general director of agriculture in al-Jizah, says: Al-Jizah Governorate has lost 70,000 feddans of the best cultivable lands in a period of 20 years only, i.e. from 1960 to 1980, even though the governorate's productive cultivable area amounts to no more than 183,537 feddans, which means that one third the governorate's cultivable lands have been devoured by the monster of encroachment upon cultivable lands.

Engineer 'Abd-al-Razzaq Badawi adds: Regardless of what efforts are made to stop the transgressions against cultivable lands under the current law, these transgressions will not be possible to stop due to the enormous rise in the prices of agricultural lands used for construction purposes. The price of a feddan of agricultural land in al-Jizah has reached 80,000 pounds and higher figures in al-Warraq, Nazlat al-Siman, al-Mansuriyah and others. It has even reached 160,000 pounds in al-Barajil, Ambabah District and in the land holdings close to Bulaq al-Dakrur.

By itself, the [Ministry of] Agriculture cannot at all solve this problem or put an end to these encroachments because its work is to write citations and to carry out the sentences of eliminating the encroachments, if such sentences are issued. The elimination sentences are, in most cases, carried out for encroachments against state-owned lands. As for the encroachments against privately owned lands and by the owners themselves, they are an extremely difficult matter that cannot be carried out by the agricultural authorities alone because the implementation requires policemen. There are also other big problems that require engineers skilled in demolition and removal operations and such engineers are not available to the agricultural authorities.

Reclaimed Lands

The area of land reclaimed to date amounts to 912,000 feddans, of which only 600,000 feddans have been cultivated. But reclaimed land's require long years to attain high productivity levels. The production of the 600,000 feddans is not equal to that of the lands lost in al-Jizah Governorate alone, namely 60,000 feddans, according to Engineer 'Abd-al-Razzaq Badawi, because the land encroached upon is old and highly productive. Scraped lands do not regain their productivity before the passage of 10 years at least because the scooping takes away the fertile layer of soil that is fit for cultivation and leaves only the subsoil.

Who Encroaches Upon Agricultural Land?

Engineer 'Abd-al-Razzaq Badawi says that a committee has been formed in al-Jizah Governorate to check the encroachments on agricultural lands and the acts of soil removal. The committee has started its work in al-Jizah District and has found that most of the encroachments are committed by the housing cooperatives. Citations have been issued against many of these cooperatives for encroaching upon agricultural lands. Many of these

cooperatives realize astronomical profits by purchasing a feddan of land in some villages for about 40,000 pounds and selling it, after dividing it into plots, for nearly 160,000 pounds or more.

Al-Gharbiyah Governorate

Agricultural Engineer Bahjat 'Amr, undersecretary of the Ministry of Agriculture in al-Gharbiyah, says: The agricultural authorities are exerting utmost efforts in fighting the encroachments upon agricultural lands. But these authorities do not have a [police] force and cannot eliminate the encroachments in case sentences are issued to eliminate them. Such elimination has to be administrative and by way of the police.

Engineer Bahjat 'Amr adds: Al-Gharbiyah Governorate has lost 51,000 feddans of the best cultivable lands and the loss continues. Within the 6 years ending in 1977, the governorate lost 12,000 feddans. There are no reclaimed lands to be added to the cultivable area in the governorate. Thus, the individual's share of cultivable lands is diminishing year after year.

Engineer Bahjat 'Amr adds: Scooping away agricultural soil is very damaging to the land. The most significant damages caused by soil removal are:

Removing the strongly fertile layer of surface soil weakens the land's productivity and the land cannot regain this productivity for 7 years at least.

The damage caused to surrounding lands because of the difference in elevation. This forces surrounding lands to do the same to get equal service and so forth.

The difficulty of irrigating scraped lands and surrounding lands due to the difference in elevation and due to the difficulty of opening irrigation and drainage canals in them.

Water in higher lands surrounding scraped lands seeps to the lower lands and damages their crops.

Finally, Egypt has lost more than one million feddans of agricultural lands despite the laws and the decrees that have been buried in the office drawers of high-ranking officials and despite the enormous resources that the ministry concerned, along with the Ministry of Interior, has.

The question is now: Who is responsible for this catastrophe, though we are not in the process of bringing to account those who are responsible? Moreover, who is the official who will put a stop to this monster so that we may not be surprised one day with the disappearance of cultivable lands?

JOURNALISTS DISCUSS SECTARIAN SEDITION

Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 21 Apr 80 p 3

[Article by Ihsan 'Abd-al-Maqṣud: "Events Threatening National Unity in Dialogue Among Intellectuals at Journalists Union Premises; Kamil Zuhayri: Ignoring Publication Opens Door for Rumors; Musa Sabri: Publication May Lead to Bad Consequences; Dr Louis 'Awad: Press Has not Carried Out Its Duty; Hafiz Mahmud: Intellectuals, Along With Government, Are Responsible; Lutfi al-Khuli: Problem Lies in Lack of Platforms for Dialogue"]

[Text] The Journalists Union has held a symposium to underline national unity. The symposium included the major writers and journalists and lasted 4 hours.

All the opinions expressed have supported the need to underline the national unity but have disagreed on the means for tackling the events that try to undermine this unity. They have also disagreed in pinpointing the responsibility for the small incidents that have taken place during the past weeks. Furthermore, they have disagreed on the role of the press and of the information media in tackling the incidents.

At the outset of the symposium, Kamil Zuhayri, the journalists doyen, said: We are today in a situation that does not require many statements. Many writers and authors have preceded us to highlight the meanings of national unity faithfully and sincerely. I believe that the present society can be broken down into numerous social forces. There is the force of the state with its three authorities, there are the parties, there are the professional unions, there are the religious institutions, such as al-Azhar and the church, and there are the religious youth groups.

Parties and Sedition

Kamil Zuhayri also said: We have noticed that the partisan forces with their various ideologies, even though they are new and growing forces and even though they appeared only a few years ago, include, incidentally, Muslims and Christians in their leaderships.

We also notice that in the labor and professional unions, the sectarian issue has not appeared in either the activities or the professional relations of these unions. On the contrary, a sort of natural alliance which unites the two elements of the nation engaged in the same profession, has been established.

If we move on to the religious forces, then no historian can deny the role of al-Azhar and of the church in the national battle.

As for the radicalism among some youth, the information media and the information men have the duty of tackling this issue.

The council [not further specified] has crystallized its opinion in this regard. It is the duty of the information men and of the journalists. The information people have to tackle the social problems without black-outs and without exaggeration so that no opportunity may be given to rumors.

Second point, press role: Opinion must be in harmony with the press code of honor in dealing with the national unity issues and it is required that the journalist seek accuracy and avoid sensationalism in dealing with these problems.

Three Ideas for Discussion

The journalists doyen then said that he proposes three ideas: The issuance of a statement that underlines these meanings historically and the responsibility of the media in dealing with news and opinions.

As an influential professional union, we must not be content with statements. We must move with the other professional unions and must complement each other. We may encounter some difficulties but I believe that we must move with the professional unions.

A conference should be held by the professional unions to underline the national unity and we must shoulder our responsibilities together.

Musa Sabri

Musa Sabri, chairman of AKHBAR AL-YAWM Board of Directors, then took the floor to say:

My analysis of this phenomenon is that it is the outcome of what happened in preceding eras. The Muslim Brotherhood was persecuted cruelly and matters reached the point where murders were committed in one of the jails. There is a new generation of youth that has seen nothing but darkness and tears and the loss of father, brother, maternal uncle and paternal uncle. This generation has grown up rebellious against this situation and this rebellion has caused him to resort to religion radically where he has found those who nurture him [his rebellion]. Regrettably, the youth find those who instigate them and they believe any story they are told. Thus

violence erupts in the university towns and in certain governorates in particular. I believe that the disease lies in the leaderships of these governorates. There is a strange phenomenon in Asyut, al-Minya and Alexandria. The press can perform a weighty role in dealing with the problem of the youth.

The real problem lies in the fact that youth cannot find those who lead them on the right path. Therefore, the Journalists Union can perform a real and significant role if it gets the youth to meet with the prominent journalists through the union so that the union may melt this ice, conflict, friction and this hostility that has reached the limits of hysteria.

[general as evaluation [sic] is concerned, Musa Sabri said: I am for evaluation insofar as the publication of reports is concerned because the truth are the crux of the problem. A small incident took place among youth in Alexandria. The incident was, in fact, a simple one. What is painful is that had the facts of the incident been published at the time as they were, they would have only poured oil on the fire because both sides - the youth are not prepared to accept what is published, unless what is published supports their viewpoint.

It so happened that Muhammad Sa'id al-'Ashmawi, a counselor in the Court of Cassation, was sent to me by Tawfiq al-Hakim with a book on the interpretation of the Koran which al-'Ashmawi has written. I published a report on the book in AI-AKHBAR. The youth considered what was published a call for atheism. They forgot about the counselor who has written the book and accused me of atheism.

We resorted to Shaykh al-Nimr who wrote an article on the issue and we closed the matter but the youth have considered our closing the matter a plot.

Louis 'Awad

Mr Louis 'Awad then delivered an address in which he said: I would like to make an observation on the idea of issuing a statement, the idea of a joint movement with the unions and the idea of having the information media perform their duty.

I see no conflict among these three mainstays. However, I have an observation, namely that we should start from the specific point that the press should have performed its duty of finding the facts.

What has happened recently is that the press has not been interested in sending the representatives of each paper to study the truth of what happened in Asyut, Alexandria and Al-Minya. The press has ended up with ambiguities. In an atmosphere of general blackout, rumors can spread.

It is the duty of the press to gather the information and we must know the truth of what has happened and what is happening.

and then added: There is another issue that has caused the spread of radicalism. It seems to me that the atmosphere of defeat which followed 1967 has a strong connection with the deviations and the radicalism.

It is my opinion that a top-level committee of intellectuals must be formed to investigate the true causes of all that is happening. We can realize this only through serious work and profound studies.

Hamed Saydan, AL-SHA'B chief editor, said: All the parties must take a united stance toward this issue. I support the proposal for our issuing a statement in our capacity as journalists, not as partisans. I also support contacting the professional unions to join us.

Journalist Husayn Fahmi said: The Egyptian citizen feels anxious at present as a result of the radicalism and sectarianism emerging in the Egyptian society. In fact, the issue is not an issue of youth only. There is no doubt that we do not pay enough attention to the youth. The youth are largely excused in the absence of political action.

The responsibility of the press is serious and it is not easy to adopt an information policy in this regard. The press may not have been fully successful in publishing reports on some issues. We must ponder and examine the journalistic action deeply. What is more important is that a meeting be held among all the chairmen of the press boards of directors so that the plan may be clear to whoever proceeds to write on this issue.

Lutfi al-Khuli: The most serious aspect of the sectarian sedition is that it has been stained with violence. Moreover, the political currents in Egypt are religious, liberal and national currents, in addition to the socialist current. There isn't in Egypt a single newspaper or platform through which these currents can engage in dialogue, and this is futile.

The second phenomenon is the psychology of the youth. This is completely an issue of social and political makeup. The faithful youth, both Muslim and Christian, have rebelled against the official religious establishments.

We are also among the citizens of the Arab area that is encountering a multi-sided conflict, especially the Arab-Israeli conflict and the conflicts in Lebanon, Syria, Sudan, Iraq and Egypt.

The premeditated current plan is to immerse the area in a struggle between the Muslims and the Christians.

Dean of Journalists

Mattia Ibrahim, the dean of journalists, said that the main goal is to stop what is happening now and [what may happen] in the future. Where do the roots of the problem come from? We want to deal with this situation. The cure for this problem lies in giving the example because abstract dialogue with the youth is fruitless. There are several domestic and foreign political factors.

The government is not the only party responsible for providing this
message, and the groups of the people, led by the intellectuals who are
fully represented in the professional unions, [are also responsible].
We must deal with the issue by determining how to proceed with the national
unity ... that it may not serve right or left.

We urge the professional unions to form a committee to prepare an agenda
for a conference in which all the professionals take part so that every
Sectarian may put his hand in his brother's hand, as they have always done.

Ibrahim Yousif said: I disagree fundamentally with prominent colleague Musa
Mashriqi that the issue is a sectarian sedition and not a political issue.
In my view the so-called sectarian sedition existed in isolation from
our society's social, political and economic conditions. However, I do agree
with him that the issue is more serious than to be tackled with a single
political viewpoint. The issue of the unity of the Egyptian people and
country is a national issue primarily. It is an issue that precedes all
others. This is not the first time in which Egypt encounters sectarian
sedition.

Ibrahim Yousif said that any group can start a fire but that the task of
the press is to extinguish fires. Moreover, when a journalist tries to
start a fire, he must be brought to account and must be questioned on the
reasons that make him write what he writes.

At the conclusion of the conference, a statement was issued containing the
three proposals of the journalists' dozen and a fourth proposal considering
those in attendance representatives of the preparatory committee for
contacting the professional unions.

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PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE PROTESTS MINISTER'S FAILURE TO ATTEND MEETING

Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 21 Apr 80 p 5

[Article: "Full Story of Minister al-Daghistani's Escape"]

[Text] Evasion by Engineer 'Ali Fahmi al-Daghistani, the minister of transport and communications, of the People's Assembly Transport Committee has aroused a major storm in the committee's meeting.

The committee members have accused the minister of negligence, of disrespect for the people's deputies and of disregard for the importance of what is discussed in the parliament. They have demanded that a minister who commits such acts, which signify indifference and laxity among the government members, be brought to account.

The story of Minister 'Ali Fahmi al-Daghistani's escape began when the committee held a meeting to discuss the transport and communication problems in the governorates of Port Said, Ismailia and Suez in the presence of governors Sayyid Sarhan, 'Abd-al-Mun'im 'Imarah and Ahmad Hilmi Badr.

What is surprising is that the minister was absent from the meeting for no excuse and was content to send his representatives who have no power of making decisions despite their claims that they were empowered by the minister. However, the deputies uncovered the falsehood of the representatives' claims and the minister's deception.

Official Protest

Deputy Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahim, from Suez, said in protest: Whatever the problems preoccupying the minister, he should have attended the session to meet with the three governors. What has happened is considered an unacceptable approach from the government and means obstructing the work of the Assembly and of its deputies.

The deputy demanded that the committee send a unanimous official protest to the minister to warn him of the error of his actions and his negligence.

Sayyid Sayyid Sarhan signed the letter of protest and carried further the deputy's protest over the failure of the heads of the authorities to attend the meetings and their being absent with sending their representatives, before midday. This is tantamount to disdaining the Assembly's work and the people's interests. These heads of authorities should leave their positions for those who shoulder responsibility and understand it well.

Sayyid also urged the need to bring to account the heads of authorities who fail to attend the meetings regularly due to negligence and laxity in view there is no authority higher than the authority of the People's Assembly.

Mohamed 'Abd-al-'Atif, the committee chairman and the deputy minister of communications, said after finding himself in an embarrassing position that he will present to Dr Sufi Abu-Talib, the Assembly speaker, a report on the committee's protest so that the government may respect the Assembly and the requests of the assembly members to the government representatives to discuss the important issues affecting the masses and so that this may constitute a new initiative on the part of the committee to lay down the foundations of new principles and values for dealings between the government and the Assembly.

Governor Demands Minister's Presence

'Abd-al-Mun'im 'Imarah, the governor of Ismailia, refused to discuss the transport and communication problems in his governorate unless the minister of transport and the chairman of the Roads Authority attended personally.

His position was supported by Sayyid Sarhan and Hilmi Badr, the governors of Port Said and Suez.

As a result of the committee chairman's insistence on the need to hold the discussions on the projected issues, provided that those discussions be completed at a later meeting in the presence of the minister and of the heads of authorities, heated discussions started. During these discussions, Sayyid Sarhan, the governor of Port Said, revealed the erosion to which the Port Said-Damietta road is exposed day after day.

'Abd-al-Mun'im 'Imarah, the governor of Ismailia, said that he "has had enough" statements from the chairman of the Roads Authority about the imminent repairs that will be carried out for the governorate's roads when no repairs at all have been made so far.

He added: What the Roads Authority chairman will say will amount to no more than the "termination of meetings."

Hilmi Badr, the governor of Suez, asserted that the Roads Authority does not work according to a set plan and that its projects are carried out in an offhanded manner.

William Najib Sayfayn objected to the method of discussion, saying: This is a method unbefitting the level of the People's Assembly. This is also considered intervention in the executive authority's work. The Assembly should define the problems, draw up a plan and the financing programs for projects and then commit the government to implementation.

On the following day, the committee continued its discussions until 0100 but the minister of transport did not attend and evaded the meeting even though he had attended a part of the Assembly's morning sessions.

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LIBERAL PARTY CALLS FOR DEALING WITH SECTARIAN SEDITION INSTIGATORS FIRMLY

Cairo Al-AHRAR in Arabic 21 Apr 80 p 5

[Article by Hilmie Salim: "Political Vacuum Behind Radical Currents"]

[Text] The Liberal Party General Secretariat has held an important meeting under Mustafa Kamil Murad, the party chairman, to discuss the abortive attempts to create sedition between the Copts and the Muslims and to discuss also the "Arab Reality Paper" presented by President al-Sadat.

At the outset of the meeting, Mustafa Murad said: The abortive attempts to sow sedition between the Copts and the Muslims have been caused by the political vacuum resulting from lack of faith in the policies followed and by the hardships that the people are experiencing as a result of inflation. This causes youth to lose the confidence that they will have a decent future and creates in them psychological anxiety and instability that encourage them to swerve and to tend toward radicalism, either rightist or leftist radicalism, in the hope of finding a way out of what they are experiencing. Therefore, suffering is the cause of these currents that emerge in the form of radical groups that commit acts that cannot be comprehended. These issues can only be cured through economic reform and democratic dialogue with the youth so as to make it possible to learn what is going on in their minds and to answer their questions. Moreover, we should approach the matter with the firmness that will prevent its spread so as not to enable the communists and the radical groups to exploit these circumstances in their interest.

Egyptians Joined by National Unity

Mustafa Kamil Murad appealed to all the national forces to exert efforts to restore matters to their normal course, especially since we are a nation that pre-dates religions. We are Egyptians who have been joined by national unity since times preceding the emergence of religions.

Dealing With Issues Firmly

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Shafi and Maj Gen Sa'id al-Ghannam, the party's two party representatives [wakilay al-hizb]; Murad al-Sibsati, the secretary general;

Hasan Mahrus, the assistant secretary general; Maj Gen 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Sabaki, the General Secretariat member; and 'Abd-al-Majid Shatir, the Political Bureau Member, then addressed the meeting. They all stressed that matters must be dealt with firmly and must not be left to escalate and that any undermining of security must be dealt with severely.

They underlined their condemnation of any attempts to tamper with the national unity. They also stressed the need for the information media at the various levels to deal with the events in their cradle so that the people may be familiarized with the truth of the affairs, so that no opportunity may be given for the spread of rumors and radical views and so that the people may not fall prey to the foreign information media that are hostile to the regime and that seek to embarrass it. This is what the regime's enemies have sought and aspired for. Therefore, rational men of both sects must confront these matters.

Maj Gen Salah-al-Din al-Rifa'i, the party deputy chairman, opened his address with a proposal that the General Secretariat set aside the next session to appraise President al-Sadat's trip to the United States, especially since Begin's visit has ended. This is in addition to discussing the party's ideas on rebuilding the state in spheres not connected with amendment of the constitution--an amendment on which the party has already expressed its views.

The party deputy chairman then reviewed the party's position toward the Paper on the Reality and Future of the Arab Action, explaining the party's observations on the three projected options. He pointed out the party's disapproval of the option of "wait and see" because it freezes the present positions. He also pointed out that the party does not believe in the option of "going along with slogans." The party also believes that it is difficult to address the peoples without the approval of the governments due to the type of these governments and due to the degree of democracy characterizing them. Moreover, the obstacles facing the self-rule negotiations at present do not help to put an end to the Arab and Islamic division and disagreement.

Therefore, the Liberal Party has a fourth option, namely: Establish a truce with the Arab and Islamic countries opposing Egypt's peace initiative, steer away from whatever is liable to intensify the division and the fragmentation and preserve the line of retreat to solidarity and to unifying the ranks.

Exert serious efforts with all the peaceful and diplomatic means to realize tangible success in liberating the occupied territories and regaining the Palestinian people's legitimate rights or adopt strong positions, when necessary, exploiting the support of the world public opinion and the evident change in the U.S. line. This will undoubtedly result in having a number of the fraternal Arab countries join the peace procession and in strengthening peace in the area.

start a feasibility [sic] study on transforming the Arab League into a League of the Arab and Islamic peoples and postpone implementation until tangible positive results are realized on the path of the comprehensive peace based on justice and until a proper number of Arab and Islamic countries join the peace procession.

After Major General al-Rifa'i reviewed this preliminary party opinion, the General Secretariat decided to present the Arab Reality Paper to the party's popular bases for discussion so that these bases may express their opinion on it in the first half of the coming month of June.

Mohammed Murad al-Sibtasi, the party secretary general, then reviewed the party's action plan for the coming phase. The members of the General Secretariat have been divided over the republic's governorates with the aim of revitalizing the party and of filling the political vacuum, of getting acquainted with the masses' problems and the aim of offering quick and proper solutions for these problems.

8494

CSO: 4802

COUNTRY'S AGRICULTURE SAID TO BE IN DANGER

Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 28 Apr 80 p 2

[Article by Engineer Mahmud Fawzi: "Dr Mustafa al-Jabali Affirms: Our Agricultural Production Is in Danger; We have Cultivated One Million Feddans Since Construction of High Dam But Monster Has Seized Them Because of Poor Planning"]

[Text] Before the 1950's, agriculture in Egypt relied on the conventional means that exhaust the efforts of man and beast. Even though agricultural lands were misdistributed and even though land owners were in control of the tenants--a situation which led to the presence of feudalism and the absence of social justice--the Egyptian people did not feel any danger threatening their food security and did not experience any significant shortage of essential food commodities.

This is due basically to the fact that the population did not exceed 20 millions and that the individual's share of agricultural land at the time was enough to supply the individual with his modest food needs, in addition to producing a surplus of some crops--such as cotton, rice and onions-- or export.

Fundamental Transformations After Revolution

In the period from 1952 to 1980, fundamental transformations have taken place, as agricultural scientist Dr Mustafa al-Jabali says, and have affected the agricultural structure. The most important of these transformations have been the issuance of the agrarian reform law and its amendments in 1961 and 1965. This law improved the ownership structure, regulated the relations between the owner and the tenant and organized agricultural production, marketing and agricultural credit facilities on a cooperative basis with the aim of protecting small farmers from middlemen and usurers.

Increased Fragmentation of Agricultural Lands

The inheritance laws have also led to fragmenting and splitting agricultural land ownerships and holdings. A balance in the agricultural structure has also been established by increasing the holdings of small owners.

High Dam

The High Dam project--this great project or water bank that has enabled the Egyptian man for the first time in history to master the river after having been its slave--made it possible to formulate an ambitious plan to reclaim 900,000 feddans of land. But the 1967 war obstructed the completion of this plan and only 400,000 feddans were reclaimed.

The area of land cultivated with rice rose to 1.2 million feddans and the rate of crop concentration rose from 150 percent to 190 percent as a result of the High Dam and of electricity.

Lack of Silt

In view of the statements that the High Dam holds silt back from agricultural lands, Dr al-Jabali says that the increased use of chemical fertilizers has made up for the silt and production has increased, not diminished.

Encouraging Industry at Expense of Agriculture

The encouragement of industry at the expense of agriculture has led to increased emigration from the countryside to the cities in search of better work opportunities. This new trend has led to the accumulation of urban problems, such as the problems of utilities and services and their inability to meet the needs of the native city dwellers, not to mention additional inhabitants, as Dr al-Jabali says. Societies very close to the village society, and even more backward, have emerged in the cities.

Shortage of Labor in Countryside

This emigration has also led to an evident shortage of agricultural labor in the rural areas, to an abnormal rise in this labor's wages and to a drop in its productivity.

Encroachments Upon Agricultural Lands

The consequences of this policy also include the expansion in plants, utilities and housing that has led to encroachment upon the good-quality and highly productive agricultural lands adjacent to cities and villages at a rate of no less than 60,000 feddans annually. This has led to a fearful drop in the cultivable area despite the expansion realized as a result of the High Dam water. This means that all the lands we added after the construction of the High Dam have been devoured by the encroachment on agricultural lands, by the population explosion and by the food [sic] gap.

The population explosion has become more acute now that we have reached 42 millions, that the prices of food commodities have risen without a counter increase in incomes and that the gap between production and

consumption has widened and reached 65 percent--a gap that will make us import this year 5 million tons of wheat, 411,000 tons of [vegetable] oils and nearly 20,000 tons of meats.

Drop in Exports

Dr al-Jabali has added: The export volume has dropped. For example, the quantities of rice exported have dropped from 700,000 tons to 100,000 tons. At the current rates, we find that the threat of an end to the rice exports looms in the horizon and that we will begin importing rice. What is more surprising is that Egypt used to export 150,000 tons of sugar [annually] whereas we now import nearly 250,000 tons a year.

Agriculture and Reclamation Tempo

Dr al-Jabali has further added that according to the current population growth rates, we will have a population of 67 millions in the year 2000. If we want to maintain the current per capita share of the agricultural lands, the cultivable area must increase to 11 million feddans by the year 2000, i.e. with an increase rate of one quarter million feddans which must be reclaimed and cultivated annually in order that we may be able to supply the necessary food.

Sounding the alarm, Dr Mustafa al-Jabali says: To realize this, our agricultural and land reclamation policy should be built on technological bases totally different from the currently employed ones in the means of irrigation, in the use of chemicals, in the selection of crops and in the method of cultivation and service and, consequently, in the rate of ownership, in production relations, in concentrating and loading [sic] crops, in animal production, in the quantities of water used per feddan, in the rural establishments, in mechanization and so forth.

He has added that the new land needs to be developed fully and completely in a manner different from the one we have been accustomed to. With the current method and approach, we will make the same mistakes and will realize no progress.

The future agriculture must depend completely on scientific and technological progress. We have had enough experiments and enough mistakes. We have had enough indifference and negativism and enough burying of the heads in the sand. The president of the republic himself is exerting his utmost efforts to secure food for every citizen and it is the duty of all of us to exert our utmost efforts, knowledge, time and experience because Egypt comes first and foremost.

8494
CSO: 4802

CULTIVABLE LAND VIOLATIONS IN AL-QALYUBIYAH SAID TO THREATEN CAIRO'S SUPPLY

Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 28 Apr 80 p 2

[Article: "Law Protects Usurpation of Lands and Officials Exchange Accusations"]

[Text] State against state! It is a surprising conflict this into which the popular and executive agencies in al-Qalyubiyah have fallen.

While the state is raising the slogan of the green revolution and of food security, most of the fertile lands in al-Qalyubiyah are turning into residential areas. What is more surprising is that nearly (16,536) feddans in al-Qalyubiyah have turned into construction lands without any planning and in a haphazardly manner. But will the events of this farce continue and till when?

Al-Qalyubiyah Governorate is considered a source of vegetable and fruit supply for the greater Cairo.

Despite the advantages which the governorate enjoys, we have found surprising things happening there, such as when al-Qalyubiyah Governorate Popular Council issued a decision supporting those who violate the law prohibiting the construction of buildings on agricultural lands. Thus, the agricultural lands in al-Qalyubiyah are being threatened and this poses a threat to the food security in the governorate and in the greater Cairo.

Usurpation in Name of Law

Muhammad Raghib Nawar, the deputy chairman of al-Qalyubiyah Popular Council, says: Al-Qalyubiyah Popular Council has been issuing decisions and recommendations regarding some memoranda submitted by Shubra al-Khaymah inhabitants who are hurt by the ban on licenses for the construction of buildings on agricultural lands within the jurisdiction of Shubra al-Khaymah. It is the Popular Council's duty to preserve the agricultural lands in al-Qalyubiyah Governorate and to ban the construction of buildings that pose a threat to the cultivable area which represents the main source of food for the greater Cairo.

Alamed Nasri al-Sayyar, the chairman of Shubra al-Khaymah Local Council, says that the buildings surrounded by agricultural lands within city and village limits are licensed by the councils concerned and not by the Directorate of Agriculture. This means that the minister of agriculture, on agreement with the local popular councils concerned, determines the fees and licenses for construction on agricultural lands. This is in addition to the recommendation made by the ministers of agriculture and of justice to stop the citations made in this regard against buildings constructed on agricultural lands.

Surprising Conflict

Sa' id Jum'ah 'Ali, the People's Assembly member representing Shubra al-Khaymah and al-Qanatir al-Khayriyah District, believes that the rise of the price of a square meter of land to more than 300 pounds in some agricultural areas has enticed many of the owners of these lands to sell their property without any consideration for planning or for the law that bans the construction of buildings on agricultural lands.

But giving the opportunity to a large number of agricultural land development companies which divide the land into plots and then advertise the sale of these plots as approved plots is something that makes the citizens buy the plots and fall, ultimately, prey to these lies when the executive agencies concerned awaken from their slumber.

Construction Under High Tension [Powerlines]

Lt Col Jalal 'Abd-al-Nabi al-Tawil, the police station chief, asserts that the violations committed against the law that bans the construction of buildings on agricultural lands have exceeded all limits and that some agricultural land owners who subdivide their lands without any control by city councils and who are only interested in making enormous profits without any consideration to the harm that may be caused to the citizens sell even the lands that are located under high tension powerlines. This is something that poses a threat to those engaged in the construction work under these lines.

City Councils and Violations

Madiyah Muhammad Imam, chairman of the Health Affairs Committee of al-Dalyubiyyah Popular Council, says that the favors given at the expense of the law are what causes all these unchecked violations. Some National Party leaderships make a trade of subdividing and selling the agricultural lands and this encourages the citizens to purchase them. This makes the engineers and assistants in the engineering agencies refrain from writing violation citations against those who engage in the construction either as a favor or out of fear of those subdividing the lands. A committee has been formed to survey the agricultural area that has turned into a residential area so as to determine who permitted the citizens to build

and will give them the licenses despite the presence of a decision that prohibits the transformation of agricultural lands into residential lands. When Madian tried to bring up this issue in the Popular Council, some of those who benefit from violating the sovereignty and sanctity of the law resorted to insulting her outside the council. But she faced them courageously and made a report on the issue to the public prosecution which interrogated some thugs who cover up crimes.

Agricultural Cooperatives and Negligence

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mu'ti Khayyal, chairman of al-Qalyubiyah Popular Council's Permanent Committee, says that the agricultural cooperatives in the governorate are almost closed and all their agencies are almost idle because their officials know nothing about the agricultural lands that have turned into residential areas in a haphazardly manner.

He added: Even though al-Qalyubiyah is very famous for its production of vegetables, fruits and citrus fruits--a production valued at more than 5 million pounds which are equal to the national cotton crop [sic]--all this production is beginning to suffer from a cancer that will destroy it very quickly and will lead to a drop in the food supplies exported by the governorate to Cairo.

State Against Itself

But if the popular and executive agencies in al-Qalyubiyah are thrashing about with the decisions and the recommendations they are issuing and if the officials themselves are the ones who violate the law and make a trade of subdividing and selling the agricultural lands by exploiting their positions, then who is ultimately responsible for the presence of the cancer cells that are spreading in the agricultural land and when will this farce end?

8-94
CSO: 4802

ARTICLE URGES REBUILDING STATE DEMOCRATICALLY

Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 28 Apr 80 p 5

[Article by Mumtaz Nassar: "Welcome to Rebuilding State But on Condition That..."]

[Text] I welcome rebuilding the state but on condition that rebuilding the state proceed hand in hand with entrenching, bolstering and strengthening the rules of democracy and with further freedom for the people. But if what is meant by rebuilding the state is to tighten the stranglehold on democracy and to undermine the citizen's constitutional rights, then we don't want the rebuilding.

The need for amending the constitution is as urgent as the need for rebuilding because balance among the authorities will be thus realized. Each authority must be totally independent of the other so that no authority may encroach upon another.

I wonder: Why should the president of the republic hold the position of chairman of the Higher Council of the Judiciary Authorities?

This position must be held by a chairman elected from among the judiciary and the council must be free of the non-judiciary authorities that it now includes. How can members of the Administrative Prosecution and of the Bureau of [Criminal] Cases sit in the Higher Council of the Judiciary Authorities to discuss matters concerning the judiciary?

The current constitution which was promulgated in 1971 is influenced by the previous provisional constitutions, all of which are inclined toward the presidential system, meaning that the head of the state is the head of the executive authority and the man with the final decision who is helped by aides, namely the ministers. This is why it has been said that ministers in the presidential system are like a bunch of secretaries.

Parliamentary System

But if a real participation and non-monopolization of all the powers is wanted--and this, of course, is in the people's interest--then the

constitution may be amended so that a complete parliamentary system, and not a presidential system, may be established. This, also, is in the interest of democracy.

The present situation says that the People's Assembly is the authority that selects the candidate for the presidency. I believe that the text of this article in particular should be amended so that any qualified person who feels that he is fit for this position may nominate himself directly, without passing through the People's Assembly and in freedom from the custodianship of the People's Assembly and of any other circle.

However, legislation becomes more disciplined when there are two legislative councils, each with the power of legislation. But if the second council is advisory and holds no legislative power, then it is better not to have such a council.

Proposition for Press

Before we speak about the presence of a fourth estate embodied in the press, we must first formulate the rules and principles that are tantamount to guarantees for the press and for the journalists.

These guarantees are represented in turning the press establishments into joint-stock firms in which the chairmen of the executive boards are elected from among the founders in whose hands all the powers lie, in having a free and uncensored press, in allowing all the currents to project their viewpoints on all the national issues and in not allowing the press to be the mouthpiece of the ruling party, as is the case with the so-called national press at present.

I had previously demanded amendment of the constitution so that it may include such democratic principles as these ones and I sent a memorandum to this effect to the People's Assembly speaker and to the so-called national newspapers which, thankfully, failed to publish the memorandum.

Finally, if the rebuilding will lead to strengthening democracy and to realizing a balance among the authorities, then I say welcome to the rebuilding.

S.M.
Chair - ANED

LIBERAL PARTY WANTS TOP EXECUTIVE OFFICIALS TO BE ELECTED TO POSTS

Cairo Al-AHRAR in Arabic 28 Apr 80 p 6

[Article by Hilmi Salim: "Liberal Party General Secretariat: Rejection of Law of Shame and Abolition of Emergency Law; Abolition of Ministry of Justice and Position of Socialist Prosecutor; Rebuilding State Is Bigger Than Amendment of Constitution, Than Cabinet Change and Than Holding New Elections"]

[Text] The Liberal Party General Secretariat has rejected in its latest meeting the laws restricting liberties and has demanded abolition of the emergency law.

The discussions ended up with the conclusion that the law to safeguard values from shame may undermine personal freedom and take us back to the revolutionary constitutionalism which the people rejected with the inception of the correction revolution. This law also violates the immunity and freedom of the judge in issuing sentences in accordance with the rules of justice.

Mustafa Kamil Murad, the Liberal Party chairman, has said that the law imposes a non-judiciary element in the structure of the court of shame. Consequently, the fate of whoever stands before the values court is tied to the inclinations of the public figures intruding on the judiciary.

Murad asserted that the parties law is enough to guarantee national unity, social peace, socialism and democracy. He also said that the law for protecting the domestic front and the social peace and the general law safeguard society against any crimes that may threaten it. While clinging to its rejection of the law of shame in the form which the People's Assembly approved yesterday, the Liberal Party seeks to reaffirm freedom and democracy in Egypt on the basis of an objective study that enriches democratic dialogue and gives it its strength and its effectiveness.

End of Revolutionary Constitutionalism

The discussions dealt with the text of the law concerning the creation of a new judiciary authority that will decide the political cases. This is

In addition to appointing the socialist public prosecutor with the role of prosecutor on behalf of the people whereas the socialist public prosecutor's position is supposed to be a temporary position intended to protect the regime in a period of transition from revolutionary constitutionalism to constitutional legality. But with the abolition of the Socialist Union, the influence of parties on the political arena and with the stabilization of the country's political conditions, the age of revolutionary constitutionalism, of political isolation and of the political judiciary ended and there is no longer any justification for maintaining the socialist prosecutor's position.

Return to Custodianship

Abd al-Sibtawi, the party secretary general, said: Article two of the Law of Shame which defines the crimes, especially those concerning moral values and the genuine traditions of the Egyptian family, is an ambiguous article that is subject to numerous interpretations. This article speaks of the fundamental components of the Egyptian society. The constitution of the Arab Republic of Egypt promulgated in 1971 has defined these components in detail, but in elastic terms that accommodate many ambiguous and indeterminate things. This text [of article two of law of shame] permits the incrimination of many vague acts and this is incompatible with the constitutional rule that there can be no crime and no punishment without a provision. Moreover, article three states that the sentence of the [values] court is not subject to appeal and this is something that constitutes a severe injustice to the rights to a defense in accordance with the litigations law.

Moreover, the article calls for reimposing custodianship in a roundabout way and this means a flagrant violation of the constitution and of the liberties. What is more, giving the socialist public prosecutor the right to object to the nomination of workers to the unions is tantamount to usurping the workers' most important fundamental rights, in addition to being a violation of the bylaws of the International Labor Organization in which Egypt is a member. It is also in violation of the freedom of the unions. Al-Sibtawi added that the law undermines the basic liberties and will of the Egyptian people.

President of Republic by Election

The General Secretariat then dealt with the party's view on the principles of rebuilding the state which President al-Sadat will announce in a few days.

Mustafa Kamil 'Ayd, the party chairman, said that rebuilding the state is bigger than amendment of the constitution, than a cabinet reshuffle and than new People's Assembly elections.

Mohamed 'Abd-al-Shafi, the party representative [wakil], said: This is an opportunity to express the party's viewpoint on rebuilding the state.

This view is expressed in part in the Liberal Party program which demands that the presidency of the republic, the vice presidency and all the major positions in the country be filled by election. This is in addition to the need for the independence of the judiciary and of their budget, provided that the Higher Council of the Judiciary [Authorities] be headed by a counselor selected from among the members of the judiciary. We also demand a free press whose chairmen are not appointed by the executive authority and independent information media that are not controlled by the government. These are the things that underline the separation of the political powers as a second mainstay after the Islamic Shari'a. The party also believes that the position of the shaykh of al-Azhar and of the mufti should be filled by election.

Maj. Gen. Sa'id al-Ghannam, the party representative, said: While being eager for the supremacy of the law, the Liberal Party is also eager to see that the laws are issued in a sound manner. To realize this, the party stresses the need for the legislative authority to consist of two councils: the People's Assembly and a senate so that one may deliberate on what the other rushen. As for the consultative council, it will not realize this goal.

Nafisah al-Ghamrawi, member of the General Secretariat, said that the full independence of the judiciary authority and its separation from the executive authority is essential. Egypt had suffered most heavily from the subservience of the judiciary authority to the executive authority only to awaken one day to the resounding downfall of the judiciary authority in the wake of the issuance of the decree dismissing all of Egypt's judges--a decree which violated the constitution, the charter and the 30 March declaration. We condemn such action and we find that the only guarantee for preventing its recurrence is to have the judiciary authority totally independent. This requires abolishing the martial laws and restricting the right of settling legal disputes to the judiciary alone by abolishing the special and military courts. To guarantee the independence of the judiciary, the position of the minister of justice must be abolished and a minister of state should be appointed as a liaison between the judiciary and executive authorities.

Hassan Mahrus, the assistant secretary general, said: Political freedom is tied to economic freedom. He stressed main points that should be taken into consideration in rebuilding the state:

First, bolstering the public sector, focusing its investments on the heavy and strategic industries, developing its management and enabling it to perform its leadership role in development.

Second, the freedom of the private capital in investing in all spheres in partnership and in competition with the public and cooperative capital and within the framework of the development plan.

Thirdly, breaking completely from all monetrary shackles and preventing the public sector from dominating it because this will lead to unencouraging results.

Fourth, equating the Egyptian investor with the foreign investor in terms of tax exemptions.

Fifth, adjusting the escalating structure of taxes to lighten the burden of the tillitg classes and to encourage private investment, along with re-examining the policy of customs taxes.

Sixth, the need to have flexible planning at the level of the state for both the public and the private sectors.

Mr. Gen 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Sabaki, the General Secretariat member, reaffirmed all that had been said about the need for the political and economic liberties. Al-Sabaki also said that he believes in the need to strengthen the labor and professional unions and to underline their right to determine the wages, linking wages to production. He also said that there is a need to reconsider the structure of wages and prices in a manner compatible with the inflation rates and with the cost of living, to strengthen the rights of the workers and of the farmers and to reaffirm the gains that they have realized under the July and May revolutions.

R.A.64

CSC: 1802

LIBERAL PARTY CHAIRMAN DISCUSSES SECTARIAN INCIDENTS WITH COPTIC POPE

Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 28 Apr 80 p 6

[Article: "Pope Shenoudah Says at Meeting With Liberal Party Chairman: Church Supports al-Sadat Regime But I Had to Explain Some Matters to Officials"]

[Text] Mustafa Kamil Murad, the Liberal Party chairman, has discussed with Pope Shenoudah III, the Patriarch of the Orthodox Copts, the little actions committed by those who call for fanaticism.

The pope's viewpoint has agreed with Mustafa Kamil Murad's viewpoint regarding President al-Sadat's declaration that we are a state that separates religion from politics because the intervention of religion in politics means the shattering of the state.

In his meeting with Mustafa Kamil Murad, the Liberal Party chairman, and with Ambassador Riyad Mu'awwad, the Liberal Party representative, Pope Shenoudah said that he is a monk who devotes himself to the service of God. But as a pastor of the church, he has found it his duty to explain to the officials some matters that are in line with his responsibilities after reaching the conclusion that there has been negligence in investing some of the crimes committed. The pope added that he has not taken any position vis-a-vis the political leadership in Egypt because the church supports and does not oppose the regime and because it is fully aware that President al-Sadat works for the interest of the Egyptian people, both Muslim and Christian.

Pope Shenoudah added: President al-Sadat was most generous with me when I asked him to build a number of churches in the governorates for Egypt's Copts to worship in them. However, the implementation has faced some difficulties.

He added that he will not hesitate to meet President al-Sadat if asked to.

Ambassador Riyad Mu'awwad, the Liberal Party representative, has stated that the pope ended his retreat in Dayr al-Natrun Monastery and returned to Cairo after his meeting with the Liberal Party chairman.

His Holiness also said that he, as an Egyptian Copt, declares that the Coptic political leadership did not rise to the level of the responsibility during the recent events and that they have been unable to shoulder their responsibility in clarifying matters, in reuniting the ranks and in persuading the pope to hold the religious celebrations so that they may not assume a political dimension. Mu'awwad also said: I demand a change in the Christian leaderships on the occasion of rebuilding the state. I also believe that the political members elected to the People's Assembly should not be members of the Community Council.

8494

CSO: 4802

GOVERNMENT NATIONAL HOUSING POLICY CRITICIZED

Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 28 Apr 80 p 7

[Article: "Deputies Confront Minister of Housing With His Imaginary Statements; Podium Failed to Protect Minister and So He Lost His Temper, Abu-Wafiyah Challenges Any Minister or Deputy Who Owns Price of Apartment"]

[Text] Dr Mustafa al-Hifnawi, the minister of housing, has lost his temper more than once and has almost lost his sense and forgotten the tasks and duties of any responsible minister standing before the legislative authority.

This has happened in the five-hour long People's Assembly discussion on the national housing policy despite the podium's repeated attempts to protect the minister from the deputies' interruptions.

What is surprising is that the number of deputies who have attended the session and caused the annoyance to the minister did not exceed 77 members, even though the number of the People's Assembly members is 396 members! Of course, most of those attending were opposition deputies. Because of the high price of print, we apologize for not publishing the minister's comments on the deputies' statements because of the futility of these comments.

Ilfat Kamil, the Liberal Party deputy, in participation with more than 20 other members, had submitted a request for a discussion on the national housing policy.

The 77 members who attended the discussions have been unanimous that the national housing policy presented to the Assembly by Dr Mustafa al-Hifnawi does not reflect what is actually needed to eliminate the acute housing crisis and that this policy further complicates the crisis because it has been based on assumptions that do not reflect the real situation, regardless of whether the "look-around-you" [presumably meaning birth control policy] succeeds and whether the government succeeds in accelerating the national economy's growth rates.

The deputies have underlined their objection to this policy, demanding that the government present all the facts to the masses in the form of a fully financed plan instead of the excessive optimism and of the imaginary assumptions.

The deputies have put forth numerous proposals to be introduced into the national housing policy. Naturally, the minister confronted, as usual, these proposals with objection and anger.

Minister Has not Implemented His Statements

Mohamed Mahmud Isma'il, a Liberal Party deputy, has said that the government has not defined in its national policy the sources for financing the construction of 3 million units which the government intends to build. He wondered: How will the implementation take place? The minister of housing made a number of statements here at the People's Assembly several months ago and none of these statements has been carried out so far! Foremost among his statement was the statement that the sale of cement would be freed of restrictions and that a cement permit would be given within 60 days to whoever has acquired a building license.

The deputy asserted that the governorates are suffering from an acute shortage in cement supplies and in other construction materials, contrary to the minister's reply to a question which the deputy had previously addressed to him.

Mohamed Isma'il urged the need for reconsidering the decisions for the demolition of old houses that can be repaired, especially in the old and popular quarters, and for increasing the number of urgent housing units to deal with the cases of collapsed houses.

Dr Ibrahim 'Awwarah, an independent deputy, underlines several proposals for solving the crisis, namely: Making all construction materials available and enhancing the opportunities of the private sector to own land and to supply construction materials, especially since the ministry has experienced extreme failure in supplying the necessary materials.

'Awwarah added: The Religious Trusts Authority should also exploit the land and funds at its disposal in housing projects from which the citizens will benefit and the insurance companies should also exploit the funds at their disposal for the construction of middle-income and higher middle-income housing, provided that they do not apply an ownership policy intended for exploitation.

The deputy also demanded that the ownership policy which has led to this bottleneck and to this housing catastrophe be reconsidered and that the citizens be offered facilities to get bank loans at small interest rates to build multi-floor houses so that the crisis may be solved through vertical expansion and not horizontal expansion and without any encroachment upon the cultivable area.

Abu-Wafiyah Challenges Ministers and Deputies

Mahmud Abu-Wafiyah pointed out the government's mistake in following the ownership [al-tamlik] policy because of society's economic and social conditions and defied any minister or People's Assembly member who can purchase an apartment [sic].

Rash Statements

Mumtaz Nassar, an independent deputy, said that the government has become accustomed to making rash statements that are in total conflict with the reality. It was said in 1977 that 600,000 units were to be built whereas only one third the number has been built!

Mumtaz Nassar asked the minister to be honest, if only once, by fulfilling what he had promised in his latest program.

Nassar also demanded that priority in occupying the new units be given to those who live in tents, mosques, graveyards and emergency housing units. These cases constitute one half the lawsuits before the judiciary at present.

The deputy also demanded that the yield of the ownership installments, which the minister has said amounts to 530 million pounds, be channelled toward low-economy and popular housing because the 75 million pounds allocated by this government this year for this purpose are not enough to meet the needs. He also urged that the minister free the above-average and luxury housing and allow it to be subject to the supply and demand law, provided that the legislator does not interfere in this sphere to protect the toiling classes [sic].

National Party Exposes Its Ministers

Dr Mustafa al-Sa'id, a National Party deputy, focused in his address on the fact that the national plan has been excessively optimistic, full of illusions and far from the reality. He added: Never in Egypt's history has the national economy's growth rate reached 12.5 percent [annually], as the minister has claimed.

Mustafa al-Sa'id also noted that the plan is totally void of the means of meeting the housing needs of a certain class of the population, namely university graduates. It is as if these people have no right to marry and to get housing!

The deputy wondered: Where is the housing bank about which declarations had been made and why has even the mere talk about this bank stopped?

The deputy affirmed that the plan will not solve the problem, not even in the year 2000, contrary to what the minister says. The solution is connected with several aspects, led by the economic aspects, the interest

rate and the import and export policies--all of which fall within the government's responsibility ultimately.

The National Party deputy expressed his strong astonishment at the minister's off-handed assessments which state that the execution capabilities will amount to 90 percent of the plan, even though the previous years confirm the contrary. The execution rates amounted to 25 percent in 1976 and to 54 percent in 1977 and then dropped to 30 percent in 1978.

Nawal Wonders

Hamdi Ahmad, a Labor Party deputy, said that the problem is national, ethical and behavioral first and foremost. He proposed that any school principal or authority or agency chairman be denied his allowances and his promotion if water consumption exceeds the limit so that we may restore the behavioral discipline which we are advocating.

Nawal 'Amir asked: In whose interest does the Ministry of Housing suddenly transform the housing units built on al-Qasr al-'Ayni Road for newlyweds into units for [immediate] ownership sold at 20,000 pounds a unit?

Once again the minister of housing makes one of his angry statements to which we have become accustomed, saying: The plan is 100 percent realistic. The minister also claimed that this plan has taken social solidarity into consideration and that there will be a comprehensive re-planning of cities and of population centers.

We need not publish the minister's comments, considering the high cost of print.

And as usual, the Assembly quickly agreed, on a signal from the podium, to refer the issue in its entirety to the Housing and Utilities Committee so that it may prepare a study to be presented to the Assembly in its current session!

8495

CSO: 4802

DEPUTY ILFAT KAMIL SPELLS OUT LIBERAL PARTY'S VIEWS ON HOUSING CRISIS

Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 28 Apr 80 p 7

[Article: "Ilfat Kamil Explains Party's Position on Housing Crisis"]

[Text] Ilfat Kamil, a Liberal Party deputy, has explained the [Liberal] Party position on the housing crisis in her reply to Dr Mustafa al-Hifnawi, the minister of housing.

The deputy has asserted that the housing problem is the most important, dangerous and vital problem concerning the citizens and that it has resulted in numerous health, social, transportation and economic problems.

Ilfat Kamil, the deputy who had submitted the request for discussing the housing crisis in the Assembly, has said: The national housing policy has been founded on the basis of the current prices and has not taken into consideration the future years during which the plan will be implemented.

She has asked: Can we guarantee that these prices will remain stable until 1985? I believe that this is not at all possible, especially since the prices have risen by 800 percent from 1973 until now. The October war and the big investments that have followed it may have had a big impact on this rise. If we study the prices and the wages from 1978 and until the present, we find that they have doubled.

Stability of Prices

Ilfat Kamil has also said: To implement this plan, it is essential to stabilize the prices, even if the matter requires subsidizing the construction materials, the same way bread is subsidized, and not to have the government raise the prices--as has happened to the prices of cement, iron, lumber, zinc and oils. The same is required insofar as transportation fares and the prices of red bricks are concerned, keeping in mind that these prices have doubled in the 6 months since last September.

Kamil added: Since the start of the construction of the High Dam, we have been talking about red bricks, we have expected their prices to rise and

we have suggested that clay bricks be used as a substitute, especially since clay is available on both banks of the Nile. Despite the numerous promises by former ministers of housing, the clay brick industry is still crawling and its production has not appeared in the local market despite the fact that 15 years have passed [since the promises were made].

Iftat Kamil further added: What has been said about bricks can be said about cement and iron. We demand that new plants be built and that the number of furnaces be increased as much as possible so that the government may not be compelled to double the prices, as happened less than 2 years ago. It is also necessary to unify the prices of each construction material, especially of iron and cement, now that it has become evident that the subsidized materials do not reach those who deserve them.

Iftat Kamil also said: The worst that I fear as a result of my long experience in the Assembly is that promises and recommendations will be made by the government and will never, as usual, materialize, either for the inadequacy of allocations or due to the lack of ability on the part of the execution agencies, be they firms or contractors.

Iftat added: This has been studied in the national policy and they have proposed "uniformity" [al-namatiyah], whether in carpentry work, in walls or in the reinforced cement structure. But have enough plants been prepared to produce these uniform models?

Housing Legislation

The Liberal deputy then proceeded to discuss the housing legislation, saying: Numerous legislations, the latest of which is law No 49 of 1977, have been issued. All have noticed that the law has taken into consideration investment projects so as to encourage capital [to invest]. But what has happened had not been expected. The proof is the exorbitant rise in the rents of housing units, considering that the rent of a popular unit consisting of two rooms, a salon and utilities and having an area of about 45 square meters has reached 30 pounds monthly. This rent is above the income level of 80 percent of the citizens. The reason is well-known. It is not the greed of the owners but the fearful rise in the prices of construction materials, of labor wages and of land prices. The issue of land prices is dealt with by law No 49 which has established the 1974 price as the basis. But this basis has proven its failure and the prices almost doubled since the October war and are still rising.

We demand that the base price be the 1973 land prices, with an annual increase of seven percent. If this happens, the rent of a unit will drop by a half, provided that efforts are exerted at the same time to reduce the prices of construction materials within reasonable limits, even if this leads to subsidizing these materials.

The deputy also dealt with the issue of the old houses, saying: These houses are considered a national resource and must be preserved through repair and maintenance. It is noticed at present that many owners work to demolish their old houses because of their low rent and because of the high value of the debris, such as wood, and of the land. The hypothetical life span of most of these houses has ended but the houses can still be repaired and preserved.

We have already issued in this Assembly law No 10 of 1966 which permitted at the time the Cooperative Housing Organization to advance (maintenance) loans at a reasonable interest rate of three percent. Article 62 of law No 49 also deals with this issue, but has not been implemented yet, even though this law No 49 permits owners to raise the rent by a maximum of 20 percent of the maintenance costs.

Ifat Kamil has also demanded that all the demolition decisions issued against old houses in the popular quarters be reconsidered, especially since many of the decisions are obtained in illegal ways.

The deputy also pointed out that the same thing happened in 1966 and that committees were formed and re-examined the old houses, that this made it possible to save more than 70 percent of the houses for which demolition decisions had been issued and that the houses were repaired and are still in existence. Ifat Kamil has also underlined her objection to the form and spirit of the ownership policy which the government has innovated, saying that it constitutes an extremely grave precedent, especially for the private sector. She said: I have repeatedly drawn attention to this issue and have said that the private sector's investments in housing will turn to apartment ownership [presumably meaning giving the ownership of an apartment on an installment plan]. Regrettably, the party that has innovated this policy is the public sector, and the Nasr City Company in particular. Even though the law does not permit the allocation of more than 10 percent of the investments for ownership [on installments], we have noticed that this law is not observed at all, and the proof of this is clear and tangible. She has also demanded that the policy of ownership [on installments] be applied to the government and public sector units only, not the private sector, provided that the ownership installment for a low-income apartment consisting of two rooms and a salon and with an area of 45 to 50 square meters not exceed one third the monthly wages of the employee or the worker and be free of any simple or compound interest profits. As for the call that the area of such apartments be 30 square meters, this is a mistake from both the technical and the practical aspects. Such units may be used as emergency housing units for those whose houses collapse or those evicted from their houses administratively. Such units, consisting of a single room with an area of 16 square meters and divided by a wooden partition, have been built in 'Ayn Shams and offered for ownership for a monthly installment of 8 pounds for a period of 30 years.

Chairman has also asserted that prefabricated housing plants are uncommercial and unsuitable for our practical conditions or for our country's climate. To prove this, she has pointed out that 11 such plants have produced only a small number of units at high costs which have amounted to nearly 60 million pounds.

She has said: It is time to overcome all the obstacles that the citizens encounter, such as the delays caused by the Committee to Direct Demolition and Construction Works which was formed in a certain period and which now serves no purpose other than to complicate matters. We must welcome any investments in housing, no matter what such investments amount to. We must also facilitate the issuance of permits which have come to constitute obstacles in the face of those who request them.

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JULY 1971

MINISTER, DEPUTIES ARGUE OVER PENSION DEDUCTIONS

Cairo Al-AHRAR in Arabic 28 Apr 80 p 7

[Article: "Dr Amal and People's Assembly Members Exchange Accusations"]

[Text] The People's Assembly members and Dr Amal 'Uthman, the minister of social affairs and insurance, have exchanged accusations in the session to discuss the amendments on the social insurance law.

Deputy Salah Abu-al-Majd has claimed that the statements made by the minister to the effect that agreement has been reached between the government, the Assembly and the National Party on the issue of making pension deductions on the incentive pay given to workers are untrue.

The deputy added: No agreement such as the one about which the minister talked has been reached. He said: It seems that the ministry has awakened suddenly to surprise us with this amendment on the law which has been in force for 5 years.

Dr Amal 'Uthman said in reply: The new provision introduced by the bill for making pension deductions on the incentive pay given to the workers during the actual period of work and within certain limits of this pay materialized after it had become evident from application that certain groups have earned incentive pay amounting to 100 and 200 percent of their basic wages in one way or another and by circumventing the law. Their wages have risen in an enormous manner that has caused an imbalance. Therefore, we find that the Social Insurance Fund is threatened with danger.

Rif'at al-Batal joined his former colleague [deputy Abu-al-Majd] to say: The minister's present statements are in conflict with what was agreed upon during the Manpower Committee's discussions on the bill.

The minister replied with emotion: The committee approved them unanimously and so has the Federation of Workers.

The members then held their peace and the other provisions of the bill passed peacefully.

8494
CSO: 4802

OBSTACLES FACING DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE EXAMINED

Cairo Al-AHRAR in Arabic 5 May 80 p 2

[Article by Engineer Mahmud Fawzi: "High Dam Has Failed to Develop System of Agriculture; Most Important Obstacles Facing Agricultural Production in Egypt and How to Overcome Them"]

[Text] The constant population growth, which has been impossible to stop or to reduce so far and which devours all the efforts exerted to raise the food sufficiency in Egypt, requires fundamental solutions that are up to par with this serious problem. Matters must be tackled firmly, courageously and seriously and we must start today and not tomorrow.

Agricultural production must be enhanced qualitatively and quantitatively and cultivable lands must increase year after year so that the individual's share of the cultivable may remain at least as it is at present. Agricultural concentration and crop load [al-tahmil al-zira'i] must be intensified, agriculture in Egypt must develop by adopting modern technology and the use of irrigation must be truly streamlined because water is the real wealth of this country.

The most important obstacles facing production can be summed up in the following:

1. The constant loss of agricultural lands which is reflected in the encroachment of construction, housing and plants upon the cultivable lands. What makes this problem more acute is the fact that the encroachment takes place against the most fertile lands adjacent to cities and villages. Egypt is losing annually no less than 60,000 feddans of land. Dr Mustafa al-Jabali estimates the loss over the past 20 years at more than one million feddans, an area which exceeds by far the area reclaimed and cultivated with the High Dam water, especially since the lost land is highly productive and the new lands are of low productivity. This encroachment must be stopped with a serious national campaign that starts now by stopping the construction of buildings that are in violation.

2. The scooping away of soil and the loss of the fertile layer of the soil to the brick industry: This is a serious matter, especially since

silt has stopped reaching the valley since the construction of the High Dam. The price of top soil scooped away to a depth of one meter from a single feddan of land has reached 10,000 pounds. This scooping away of the top soil causes the land to lose its fertility for 10 years at least.

3. The inadequate land reclamation and cultivation, considering that we must reclaim and cultivate at least 250,000 feddans annually because the annual population growth amounts to 1.25 million people. We will be thus able to maintain the individual's low present share of the agricultural lands.

4. Streamlining the use of irrigation water: The current ration of water consumed per feddan is 8,500-9,000 cubic meters annually. This is a high figure at a time when lands at the far ends of canals, ditches and water installations suffer from the lack of water. This ration is supposed to be reduced to 6,000 cubic meters annually and 50 percent [sic] of the water is supposed to be saved for other crops. This can be done only through streamlining the use of water, controlling the flow of irrigation water and applying the system of uniform crops in lands across the same irrigation canal. This is the project which Ibrahim Shukri thought of but which has not been implemented. We must take into consideration that if the water ration drops to 6,000 cubic meters of the High Dam water, 25 percent of this volume will be lost to evaporation while the water flows on its way to the field crops.

To make it possible to reclaim lands that will increase the cultivable area to 11 million feddans by the year 2000 when the population will rise to 67 millions, a total volume of 79 billion cubic meters of water will be required, according to Dr Mustafa al-Jabali and Dr 'Abd-al-'Azim Abu-al-'Ata. The volume of water available currently is 55 billion cubic meters which will rise by 2 more billion meters after completion of the Jonglei Canal [in Sudan], thus bringing up the total to 57 billion cubic meters, i.e. with a shortage of 22 billion cubic meters in the 79 billion cubic meters needed to irrigate 11 million feddans by the year 2000.

Dr 'Abd-al-'Azim Abu-al-'Ata adds that 9 more billion cubic meters of water can be saved through streamlining and reducing the water ration from 8,500 cubic meters per feddan to only (500) cubic meters and by using the drainage water. The only obstacle facing the use of drainage water is the high rate of salinity in some drainage canals and the water of these canals poses a danger if used for irrigation.

5. Developing agriculture before developing irrigation: Dr Mustafa al-Jabali says that streamlining irrigation depends to a large degree on the development of agriculture. He adds that agriculture must be developed before developing irrigation. If agriculture is developed and if it becomes possible to expand the collective cultivation of other crops, as is currently happening in the case of cotton, and to tie the collective cultivation [which, presumably, means cultivating one kind of crop in one

large areas instead of having it cultivated in small areas scattered here and there) to irrigation canals and ditches. It will become possible to realize the necessary development of agriculture and to save quantities of water for the required expansion.

6. Concentrated cultivation: Agricultural experts and scientists are unanimous that the only hope for increased agricultural production lies in concentrated cultivation as long as the fragmented agricultural ownerships stand as obstacle in the face of streamlining the use of irrigation water. Concentrated cultivation means cultivating the same land successively with more than one crop in the same year. Concentrated cultivation in Egypt has now reached 180 percent whereas it was 150 percent before construction of the High Dam. With modest efforts, concentrated cultivation can be increased to 300 percent, meaning that the crop acreage in Egypt can be raised to 18 million feddans. China, for example, has realized 100 percent in concentrated cultivation. It has even achieved 500 percent in the concentrated cultivation of vegetables, meaning that the same land is cultivated with five successive vegetable crops in the same year. Some (tropical) countries have been able to cultivate three and more wheat and rice crops annually by relying on quickly ripening crops, which is the new inclination [in agriculture] at present.

7. Quickly-Ripening Crops

The world is inclined at present to cultivate quickly-ripening crops to intensify the use of land and to increase concentrated cultivation. There are types of good-quality cotton that mature in only 4 months, instead of the 8 months presently needed in Egypt. There are also types of wheat that ripen 28 days faster than the ordinary type of wheat, types of highly-productive corn that mature in 65 days and types of rice which produce two crops in the same period during which one crop is produced in Egypt, and so forth.

8. Calculating Production by Day

According to what Dr al-Jabali stresses, matters have reached the point where some countries now calculate production by the day, saying that wheat production per day is so much. The type of wheat that stays in the soil for 5 months and yields seven irsdabbs [per feddan] is better than the type that stays in the soil for 6 months and yields eight irsdabbs, and so forth. Thus, the land is not left fallow for a single day, and it is considered gross negligence to do so.

9. Crop Structure

The current crop structure is considered one of the biggest obstacles facing agricultural production. The division of land to produce food for man and food for livestock, especially animals that produce no meat and no milk and that are used mostly for labor that can be performed by machinery, needs to be changed in a fundamental manner. We cultivate

million feddans of land with clover annually to produce fodder for animals with a poor rate of fodder transformation into meat and milk. For tens of years, we have not made any serious efforts to select local strains of cattle and buffalo that can raise the productivity and transformation efficiency of the Egyptian livestock, thus causing most of the area cultivated with fodder to go to waste.

The conventional current crop structure, adds Dr al-Jabali, is of relatively low benefit and is not conducive to raising the yield from the natural and human resources used in the production process. The structure follows an old pattern whose fundamental goal was to realize food sufficiency for the small farmers and workers engaged in agriculture. This pattern has continued without any noticeable change, except for expansion in the cultivation of vegetables, fruits and sugarcane.

This crop structure was justified in the past when there was a balance between the land resources and the population which made it possible to supply the essential food needs and when the Egyptian man's needs of the other commodities were limited. But now the balance between the cultivable land and the population has been upset and the continuation of this old pattern of crop structure is no longer justifiable because it is unable practically to meet the population's essential needs. We import more than 65 percent of the wheat we consume and 80 percent of our [vegetable] oils consumption. It is no longer possible to cling to regional food sufficiency and this philosophy has to be replaced in the near future by the philosophy of intensifying the use of the available resources in agriculture.

No Development in Agricultural Systems Since High Dam

Dr al-Jabali also stresses that the Egyptian agricultural system has not developed at all since construction of the High Dam, except in one aspect--namely that most of the corn is cultivated now in the summer instead of (using the Nile water) to cultivate it. This is despite the fact that the current potentials of the High Dam, the change in the balance between the land and the population and the change in the prices of export crops make it necessary to exploit the available resources, whether natural or human, in agriculture to the furthest limit possible.

The need of the agricultural production for a fundamental and immediate change is a national duty and all the sincere efforts must be consolidated for the service of Egypt and of the Egyptian people, especially when we see that the president of the republic himself is devoting his top and major attention to agricultural production so as to put a stop to this fearful rise of prices and so that we may start an era of prosperity with the era of peace.

SOLUTIONS FOR SUPPLY SHORTAGES, INFLATION CONTROL PROPOSED

Cairo Al-AHRAR in Arabic 5 May 80 p 3

[Article by Wahid Ghazi: "Laws Are not Enough to Control Prices; Two Million Pounds Daily in Government Subsidy for Black Market Merchants; Should We Stamp 'Eagle's Seal' on Public Sector Fishes?"]

[Text] It is wrong to think that we can solve our problems by promulgating new laws.

If it were so, solutions to problems would be easy and the entire world would have rest from all the crises it is facing because there is nothing easier than to have the parliament meet and issue a new legislation whenever a problem emerges.

We have issued tens of laws and decisions to solve the housing crisis but the crisis has intensified. The key money law has doubled the sums demanded by owners and the law to have rent determined by committees has made many capitalists refrain from investing their money in the field of construction.

We have stiffened the penalty for drug trafficking and have made it a death penalty and no the prices of drugs have risen, and with them the profits of the dealers, because drug trafficking has become a risk whose price must be equal to the serious nature of the death penalty.

I do not mean by these examples to disdain the importance of the laws that fight inflation and delinquency but I want to assert that "problems are not solved by laws alone." The compulsory price decisions and the laws that stiffen the penalties imposed on exploitative merchants are not enough to meet the consumers' needs for the essential commodities at reasonable prices.

The problem of the insane inflation in recent months is undoubtedly due in part to the greed of the merchants. But the merchants would not be able to engage in their greed "if the supply was not less than the demand." The commodities available are smaller in volume than those over which the

people fight to purchase. The solution, very simply, lies in one of two things:

Reducing the demand to the level of the supply: This is impossible because it requires denying a number of people the purchase of food supplies, clothes and other items that meet their needs.

Increasing the volume of the needed commodities and making them available in the markets, thus causing their price to drop automatically and normally. This is the sound economic solution. However, the difficulty lies in how to increase the volume of what is wanted.

Sapho Game in Cooperatives

It is naive to demand that the state produce or import a larger volume of commodities with which to meet the demand of the masses without pointing out where the state can secure the funds necessary for this production or for this importation.

To answer this question, we will cite the example of the Sapho box which is not available at present in the markets or in the cooperatives.

It costs the state more than 8 piasters to produce a box of Sapho. However, the state insists on subsidizing Sapho and offers the box for 6.5 piasters, i.e. at less than the cost price. The result is that the state cannot increase Sapho production because increasing this production means increasing the subsidy which the state shoulders. Consequently, there is a shortage in the quantities of Sapho supplied to the markets and the product is sold at double its price (13 piasters) in the black market. Therefore, imported detergents, such as Tide, are in demand. The price of a small box of Tide has reached 48 piasters and the consumer is compelled to buy it.

Which is better for the consumer:

To read on the Sapho box that its price is 65 mils and not be able to get it or get it from the black market at double its price, if he is lucky?

Or to find this box available to him at its real production cost, 10 piasters for example? There is no doubt that this option is better for the consumer.

If we proceed to present the same question to the producer, namely the state, and ask which is better for it:

To offer the box of Sapho for 65 mils, shoulder the price differential in the form of subsidy, be unable to increase production so as not to incur more subsidies and, consequently, face the harsh criticism of the consumer?

to raise the price of the bag of Sapho to 10 piasters, thus freeing itself of the subsidy that it shoulders and becoming able to meet the market need? There is no doubt that this is better for the state also.

Grant to Black Market Merchants

What is said about Sapho can also be said about tens of other commodities which the state subsidizes with 1,269,000,000 pounds annually. This means a daily subsidy of nearly 4 million pounds which the state pays and at least one half of which (2 million pounds) ends up in the pockets of middlemen who sell these commodities at more than double their price in the black market.

Tens of food commodities sold at subsidized prices in the consumer cooperatives end up being sold at grocery shops at double their prices. The local markets which the state says are available at the cooperatives and which the consumers cannot find there also end up in butchers' shops and (kabab) shops. Moreover, Lake Nasir fishes and imported fishes are also sneaked to the fish markets to be sold at triple their prices. What is more, some of these goods are sold openly in the wholesale markets in Bayn al-Surayn Quarter. These goods cannot be seized because the "eagle's seal" cannot be stamped on a subsidized fish, piece of cheese or meat so as to make it possible to seize such goods if sold in the black market.

If it is said that a part of these subsidized commodities reach those who deserve them, then the solution lies in having the state distribute directly one half the subsidy value in the form of allowances for small civil servants, who are the one and only group crushed by inflation and meant to receive the subsidy. With the other half of the value of the subsidy, the state can strengthen the successful public sector plants--and I underline the word successful--so that these plants may raise their production to meet the market needs.

This is the logical solution. But it is hard to attain because there are those who benefit from the subsidy even though they do not deserve it and because those with the power to terminate the subsidy get the subsidized goods delivered to their homes in the quantities they want and more, at the subsidized price and without their having to suffer or wait in lines for these goods!

With Failures Against the Successful

But if, after abolishing the subsidy, we give the public sector plants the freedom to raise the price of their products to the level that covers their production cost, then there is a big possibility that these plants will exaggerate their costs and, consequently, their sale prices. The solution lies in streamlining and controlling the spending so that the prices may not rise abnormally and in controlling production so that its quality may not drop.

We have before us the examples of the textile mills that raise the prices of their products daily and of the (Sabi) Metal Products Plants which produce pipe, sanitary fittings and other products and offer them for sale at the same prices of similar imported products that are clearly of a higher quality. This has led to the unsalability of these products to the degree that has urged the biggest distributor of these products, namely the Ploughs and Engineering Company, to load Sabi products on other goods. Whoever buys from the company porcelain produced by the Chinaware and Ceramics Plants must purchase with it pipe or faucets produced by Sabi! At the same time, we find that there is struggle for the product of the Ideal Company Plants and yet the minister comes and offers 51 percent of the shares of the successful Ideal Company for sale to a French Company while protecting the unsalable production of Sabi and of other companies on the pretext that Ideal needs several millions of pounds to increase its production.

Why don't we close the failing companies or offer them for sale and strengthen with their yield the successful companies? The era in which we boasted that we produced everything from needles to missiles, regardless of the poor quality of the product and of the astronomical costs we spend on it, has gone.

Another extremely important point is the one concerning the middlemen in the fruits, vegetables, and fish trade and other trades which transfer the commodity from the producer to the merchant, reap astronomical profits from their middlemanship and control the rise and drop in prices according to their whims. Why doesn't the public sector replace these middlemen? Isn't this more useful than having the public sector grill fish and sell beans and tu'miyah sandwiches?

There are also the offhanded decisions issued by the governors which contribute to the shortage of commodities and the rise of prices, the latest of which is the decision banning the transportation of meats from the governorates with large numbers of breeders and livestock farms. This decision has resulted in raising meat prices in the capital and has motivated some butchers to smuggle livestock and meats and sell them after adding the cost of the smuggling risk to the price!

The most surprising of these decisions is the decision issued by the Governor of Aswan banning the supply of Lake Nasir fishes to any source other than the Fish Marketing Company. In view of the fact that the resources of the Fish Marketing Company make it impossible for it to transport more than 10 percent of the Lake Nasir fishes [presumably meaning catch], the fish resources have remained in the lake, some types of fish have gone wild and it has become impossible to catch them [sic]. Yet, the governor is still determined to prevent the private sector from purchasing and transporting Lake Nasir fishes to the other governorates to sell them there at the fixed prices--an activity which would lead to reducing the prices of meats and poultry. While the governor has banned the transportation of fresh fishes, he has permitted the transportation of

governor! These decisions must be abolished immediately and the authority to issue such decisions must be withdrawn from the governors because the solutions to the problems of supply and prices must be coordinated at the level of the republic and not the level of each governorate separately.

Solutions Far From Clowning

I do not claim that these solutions will guarantee a full supply of goods or will realize an enormous drop in prices. They are only examples of the solutions.

We need a real, and not a clowning, conference that includes a number of people with real capabilities, regardless of their partisan affiliation because we are not discussing a partisan problem but a national problem, to formulate solutions to secure supplies and to establish criteria for price control--and I am not saying to stop the rise of prices because this rise is an international phenomenon and is something dictated by the nature of development--so that the rise in prices may become normal, not a fabricated rise that allows some people to enrich themselves at the expense of the hardships of others.

Only then can the law perform a vital and important role in controlling prices and in striking exploiters. The role of the law in this case will not be to secure goods and will not be to fix the prices of inadequate or nonexistent goods--meaning that the role of the law will not be that of setting imaginary prices that cannot be applied in practice, thus threatening the prestige of the state whose compulsory price becomes mere ink of paper that is impossible to apply. Rather, the role of the law will become in this respect that of informing the consumer of the real price so that he may not be cheated or exploited and so that merchants may not have the opportunity to form the so-called cartel, i.e. commercial monopolization, whereby the merchants agree among themselves on raising the price of a certain commodity so that the consumer may not be able to get it at lesser than the price they set even though the commodity is in abundant supply.

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CSC: 4802

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE, MINISTER DISCUSS HOUSING CRISIS

Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 5 May 80 p 5

[Article: "Minister of Housing: "Intercession by People's Assembly Members for Acquiring Cement Permits Is Behind Housing Crisis!"]

[Text] Dr Mustafa al-Hifnawi, the minister of housing, has acknowledged that the current housing laws are one of the main reasons for the intensifying housing crisis.

During the meeting of the People's Assembly Housing Committee to discuss the national housing policy, the minister has said that he rejects to deal with the private sector, despite his eagerness to encourage this sector, because of the high rents it charges. The minister has also asserted that only eight percent of the capable citizens deal with this sector.

The minister has added that the state has entered as a party in the problem unwillingly because of the prevalent situation and to deal with the crushing housing crisis.

Minister Insists on Wrong

The minister has also insisted on the faulty ownership policy that he has been following, saying that the private sector never leases and only sells to guarantee profits for fear that the laws will again reduce rents, as has already happened in three previous times.

The minister has said that the old rents are very unfair and that he will exert efforts to lift this injustice by amending the old legislations.

The minister has again acknowledged his failure to control the cooperatives and the elevation of existing buildings, saying that no controls can be drawn up for them, that there will inevitably be exploitation in this regard and that for the control to be complete, a complete army is needed.

The minister backed down on his previous statements concerning the emergency housing, saying that the emergency housing units are temporary and not permanent and that they will continue to be used to deal with the cases of the collapse of houses and of administrative eviction to eliminate the phenomenon of housing in mosques, tents and schools.

People's Assembly Members Are the Cause

Dr. Mustafa al-Hilawi has also acknowledged that the cause behind the current crisis is the acquisition of permits for rations [hisas] exceeding the existing rations altogether. The minister has put the blame on the People's Assembly members because of their incessant intercession to get cement permits for themselves and for others.

A number of deputies have brought up a number of important issues concerning the housing crisis. During the session, Iifat Kamil, a Liberal deputy, demanded that housing units be built in al-Duwayqah area instead of the emergency housing units so as to accomodate the largest number possible of families whose houses have collapsed. She also demanded that the existing buildings be elevated for the purpose of vertical expansion.

The deputy criticized the government policy which provides for giving ownership of the emergency housing units to citizens for a monthly installment of 8.5 pounds at a time when the income of a citizen with a limited income does not exceed 12 pounds monthly. She demanded that this policy be changed immediately.

The deputy has also demanded that the houses occupied by administrative units be evacuated, that the law concerning this issue be implemented and that the houses be used for the purpose of housing the masses, thus contributing toward a solution to the crisis.

She added: It has never so happened that a citizen got a building license in 60 days, as the minister has claimed. What is happening is that the citizen does not get the license unless he pays the "bribes" [al-lahalih]. The deputy has also asserted that the procedures are complex and obstruct the private sector's participation in all ways.

Iifat Kamil has demanded a speedy implementation of the idle laws, such as the law on electric elevators and the law on the repair and maintenance of buildings issued in 1966, and participation by the owner and the occupant in the repair operation.

She has also demanded that the prices of construction materials be unified, that the door for their importation be opened and that they be exempted from customs taxes.

Engineer Muhibb Istaynu the committee chairman, has pointed out the need to expedite the repair of old houses and to add 20 percent to the rent for a certain period of time to cover the costs of repair.

The committee is now preparing its reports to submit it to the Assembly at a future session.

FOREIGN CURRENCY SAID DRIVING UP RURAL INFLATION

Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 12 May 80 p 2

[Article by Engineer Mahmud Fawzi: "Kilogram of Meat for 3 Pounds in Village and 4 Pounds in al-'Atabah; Price of Female Buffalo Has Reached 1,000 Pounds"]

[Text] The temperature has risen and so have the meat prices in villages and cities. The price of one female buffalo has reached 1,000 pounds and that of a one-year old calf has reached 300 pounds. The price of eggs has risen in villages to 6 piasters per egg. The price of a kilogram of local chicken has reached 180 piasters. This inflation is abnormal. Have fodder prices risen so sharply? Has the price of a qirat of clover risen so exorbitantly? Have livestock numbers in the countryside dropped? What are the factors causing the meat prices to rise?

In Ashmun, al-Minufiyah Governorate, the female buffalo of Ahmad Zahran, from the village of 'Izbat al-Zaharinah, was sold for 1,020 pounds even though the buffalo had just given birth. Amin Shararah, a livestock breeder in Ashmun, says that the prices of livestock have risen 25 percent in just one and a half months, adding that neither fodder prices nor costs have risen in this period. It is true that the wages of a stable hand have risen to 150 piasters daily. But this has not happened during this period. Farmer Mahmud Taha has said that there has been an unexpected demand for meats, adding that he sold a young calf for 80 pounds at the beginning of last month and that he sold another calf with the same specifications for 130 pounds a month later. The price of a female buffalo has reached, according to Taha, 1,001 pounds in the village market this week.

At this point, Hamad Dardir al-Sawi al-Qattan interrupts to assert that he sold 2 days ago a female buffalo for a price of which he had never dreamt, namely 850 pounds exactly.

The price of meat in the district villages has reached 3 pounds per kilogram of boned veal and 240 piasters per kilogram of boned beef [kanduz]. What is meant by veal is the meat of suckling calves that are less than 40 days old. As for eggs, the price per egg is 6 piasters on market day. After the market day, the prices rise to 9 piasters per egg.

in the village of Ghazahiyah), the price of a kilogram of boned veal reached 260 piasters this week and that of boned beef 240 piasters whereas only a month ago the price was 200 piasters for a kilogram of boned veal and 180 piasters for that of boned beef. In al'Atabah market in Cairo, a kilogram of veal is sold for 4 pounds at al-Suways Butcher's Shop. On market day, the price of an egg is 6 piasters whereas it reaches 8 piasters after this day.

As for bread, the farmers, according to Sayyid 'Abdallah, Yahya Wasil and Ahmad 'Uthman, buy it from an old village oven [tabunah talwanah]. The bread is unhealthy and poorly made. There is no control over the oven which sells ordinary flour.

'Ali Abu-Salayman and Mahmud 'Abd-al-Majid, both farmers in Ashmun, say that the reason for the high prices of meats, eggs and everything, especially of cultivable land where the price of a feddan of (fallow) ordinary land has reached more than 10,000 pounds, is the foreign currency that flows into the countryside with the rural citizens who work in Arab and foreign countries and who bring with them every year "large baskets" of dollars, marks, francs, riyals and dinars and proceed to buy with a very high purchasing power that causes the prices to rise. They purchase calves for breeding and for partnership, thus causing livestock prices to rise. They also buy meat without any restraint and cause land prices to rise to an end. All their investments are confined to the village and the countryside.

According to these farmers, if the village depended on its inhabitants and farmers, without the flow of these streams of foreign currency, prices would drop by more than one half. This [driving up of prices] doesn't occur only in the summer when these workers come to Egypt from abroad because they leave their monies here with their families with specific instructions [as to what to do with these monies].

SAV
Date 6/6/

NEW CUSTOMS LAW ON SMUGGLING CONSIDERED UNCONSTITUTIONAL

Cairo Al-AHRAR in Arabic 12 May 80 p 3

[Article by Layla 'Abd-al-Salam: "New Customs Evasion Law Violates Constitution and Revives Empire of Suitcase Merchants; Law Professors and Chamber of Commerce Object; Ministry of Finance Insists on Applying Law"]

[Text] The new law incriminating customs evasion has caused confusion in the business market. A number of merchants of imported goods announced that they have stopped their work and have sent cables of protest to the officials. They have said that the new law scares them. Law professors have asserted that the measures and penalties contained in the new customs evasion law are in violation of the constitution and must be abolished immediately. The government has decided to grant the merchants a period of grace which ends on the 17th of the coming month of June and after which the law will go into effect.

The merchants have been screaming: We don't want a period of grace. We want abolition of this unfair law which takes Egypt back to the era of the suitcase merchants and of smuggling goods into the country.

Suddenly and without any preludes, the new law was issued at the end of last March as law No 75, with an amendment to law No 66 of 1963. The first article of the new law states:

"Paragraph 2 of article 121 of the customs law issued by law [sic] No 66 of 1963 shall be replaced by the following text:

"Article 121--paragraph 2:

"The possession of foreign goods for the purpose of sale with the knowledge that they are smuggled goods shall be considered an act of smuggling. Knowledge shall be assumed if the individual in whose possession the goods are found fails to produce the documents proving that customs taxes and other stipulated taxes and fees have been paid for the goods.

"The presentation of false or forged documents or bills, the attachment of false trademarks, the concealment of goods or of trademarks and the perpetration of any other act intended for evading all or part of the due customs taxes in violation of the regulations in force regarding banned goods shall also be considered acts of smuggling."

It has been also decided to add article 2 [of the new law] to customs law No 66 as article 154 repeated. This article states:

"Without violating any heavier penalty stipulated by any other law, the introduction of foreign goods for the purpose of their sale or of initiating their sale and the possession of such goods for the purpose of sale with the knowledge that they are smuggled shall be punishable by a prison term of no less than 2 years and no more than 5 years and by a fine of no less than 1,000 pounds and no more than 50,000 pounds. The other penalties and provisions stipulated in article 122 shall also be applied. In case of repetition, the sentence must double the penalty and the fine."

[Article 3 [of the new law] stipulates that the law be published in the official Gazette and go into force the day following its publication.

Cat and Mouse Game

As soon as the law was issued, the business market got into turmoil. Most of the merchants announced the suspension of their work and sent numerous cables to many high-ranking officials. The government then decided to postpone enactment of the law for a period of 3 months so that its application may go into force on the 17th of next June on the grounds of giving the merchants the chance to dispose of the foreign goods and commodities in their possession.

What is surprising is that this law which has led to the stagnation of the commercial market has come, as usual, as a surprise from the government which has become accustomed to playing the cat-and-mouse game with the merchants. According to Sa'id al-Barrad, the general director of the Cairo Chamber of Commerce, the merchants are totally opposed to law No 75 which was issued suddenly and without consultation with the Chamber of Commerce in accordance with the law that binds the government to seeking the chamber's opinion in advance and before the promulgation of any law pertaining to commerce. The government may or may not adopt this opinion. Had the law been discussed by the Chamber of Commerce, the government would have heard the opinion of the merchants who form the broad base that is to abide by the law. It is easier to intensify control on the customs outlets because the new law requires stationing a policeman at the door of every shop and business place.

Now, the problem is that some people returning from abroad are entitled to customs exemptions and as a result of these exemptions, many goods enter the customs without the payment of fees. These people will, of course, be subject to the law!

therefore, the only solution lies in intensifying control on the customs outlets.

Al-Barrad added: The merchants have large quantities of goods without bills because of the old customs law which permits the presence of such goods. These merchants have acquired their goods from legitimate sources and now find themselves facing law No 75.

This is why the merchants should be given a period of grace of no less than one year to dispose of their goods in accordance with the old law. The merchants are extremely concerned at present because this law exposes them to enormous penalties. Moreover, the issuance of this law says that those in charge of the customs outlets have failed to perform their duty.

Conflicting Law

Mas'ad Abu-al-Makarim, a member of the Chamber of Commerce and chairman of the Textiles and Cloth Materials Section, says: We as merchants do not encourage smuggling and do not recognize it. The old law states that the customs fees have been paid for any goods that are outside the customs zone. The customs authorities have to prove the contrary. There is also an important principle pronounced by the State Council in the case of al-Shawaribi against Fu'ad Mursi, the former minister of supply who confiscated the goods of al-Shawaribi [market merchants]. What is astonishing is that the new law considers all goods outside the customs zone smuggled and the owner has to prove the contrary. This cannot be applied in practice.

He added: If the reason for the issuance of the law is the presence of Port Said as a free zone, then the Port Said outlets are innocent of any smuggling operations as a result of the presence of the streamlining decree put into operation at the beginning of last March and setting the textiles share of the city's merchants at no more than 28 million pounds annually--a share which is not enough for local consumption. Abu-al-Makarim added: There is no doubt that this law has caused and will cause confusion to all the honest merchants. Most textile merchants have requested that they suspend their work as a result of this law which means revival of the golden age of the suitcase merchants and of the middlemen who will offer their goods for sale at homes. It also means another jump in prices, even though a suitcase merchant is subject to no taxes, customs fees or control.

Dealing With Thieves

But what is the opinion of the man in charge of customs?

Husayn Amin, a first undersecretary and the director general of the Customs Agency, says: With this law, we will block the smuggling outlets because there are areas through which it is easy to smuggle, such as the

deserts and the borders. This is in addition to the presence of duty-free goods which some people get and which they then sell to commercial places.

All trading must first deal with bills and the trade law makes it a must that payment be made according to a bill. With this law, we are asking the merchant to deal with documents. Moreover, the abundance of smuggled goods present in the market currently without the payment of any customs fees is one of the reasons for the issuance of this law. Every state in the world tries to completely block the customs gaps.

Hassan Alain added: With this law, we are protecting both the merchant and the consumer against dealing with "thieves" because the merchants may purchase damaged stolen goods or goods in storage without knowing their source and the consumer may be harmed by the purchase. This is not police action. A specialized committee of customs men will inspect the merchants' stores and check for the presence of bills proving the payment of customs taxes.

Forged Documents

Said al-Hamshari, the Ministry of Supply undersecretary for Control Affairs, says:

This law has been issued as a result of the abundance of smuggled goods in the markets, to serve customs purposes and to put a stop to smuggling. There is no conflict between decree No 119 and law No 75. On the contrary, this law helps to stabilize application of decree No 119 which sets the tariff rates for goods in circulation and guarantees consumer protection and the delivery of imported goods at reasonable prices.

Law's Severity

Lawyer Dr Muhammad 'Asfar says: This law does not deal legally with the problem of imported goods. It is often difficult to obtain customs receipts because no customs fees are paid for the gifts to which a passenger is entitled. This is in addition to the customs exemptions given to diplomats. The goods these people bring are sold to the merchants at times. The law doesn't ban such a sale but incriminates the merchant whereas the main sources goes scot-free.

He added: But is this law an act of revenge for the sentence issued in the famous case of al-Shawaribi? As soon as the smuggling crime gets beyond the customs circle, it is a legal proof that it is not smuggled [sentence as published]. This law does not deal with smuggling. If we want to curtail smuggling, we must put a limit to customs exemptions and establish a customs tariff befitting the Egyptian citizen because the current customs fees are exorbitant. As long as the customs fees are high, smuggling will not disappear.

Dr. Samiyyah 'Astur added: This law is not sound constitutionally or economically because I do not believe that stiffening penalties constitutes a solution to any social problem. We must not resort to the severity that we disapprove. We should never condone the "state's severity" which is embodied in stiff penalties totally incompatible with the violation. It would be enough to make the smuggler pay doubled customs fees on smuggled goods, meaning that we should be content with financial fines. As for the freedom-restricting penalties, they must be omitted from the legislation.

Dr. 'Astur wonders: How can punishment be allowed to hang in a minister's hand--meaning, how can punishment be left to an administrative authority? How can this happen? There is no doubt that this law will result in opening wide the door of graft and of favoritism.

Article 2 of the law states: "As an exception to the provisions of article 134 of this law, a public lawsuit may not be filed against the crimes stipulated in the preceding paragraph except at the request of the minister of finance or whoever he delegates.

"The minister of finance, or whoever he delegates may, until the time when a sentence is issued, may settle a case in return for payment of the full compensation sum [presumably full customs fees]. A settlement shall not result in returning the goods seized in the aforementioned crimes [to their owner]. However, the means of transportation and the instruments and materials used in smuggling may be returned. A settlement shall result in termination of the public cases against these crimes."

Violation of Constitution

Dr. Fathi Surur, a professor of criminal law at the Cairo School of Law, says: The law is unconstitutional because it assumes that any person in possession of foreign goods is a smuggler. It throws the burden of proving innocence on the shoulders of the accused whereas the accused is innocent until proven guilty. This case may not be likened to the law on adulteration which presumes the knowledge of cheating at the time when adulterated goods are sold. In this latter case, there is a criminal act and there is an incriminating element, namely adulterated goods. Therefore, the legislator may demand that every merchant make sure that the goods are whole and unadulterated. But the mere possession of foreign goods for the purpose of sale contains nothing incriminating. It is not permissible to throw the burden of proof on the shoulders of the individual possessing the goods for the purpose of sale.

Finally, the problem is still present and its impact on the market will surface strongly in the middle of next June when the period of grace given to the merchants to dispose of the imported goods ends.

JUSTICE, CHARITY VIEWED AS BUILDERS OF NATIONS

Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 12 May 80 p 5

[Article by Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid Kishk: "Justice and Its Results, Tyranny and its Consequences"]

[ext] Imam Ibn Taymiyah, may God be pleased with him, says: "God gives victory to a just state, even if it is infidel, and withholds it from a tyrannical state, even if it is Muslim." The imam then cites the words of God, may He be praised: "Your God will not destroy villages unjustly when their people are peacemakers."

The disunity and the injustice under which the Arab nation lives and which have made this nation flounder are what makes me speak about justice and its results and tyranny and its consequences.

Our Lord, may He be praised, has ordered justice first, charity second and benevolence toward kinsmen third.

Justice is the fundamental base for building nations because it means setting matters aright, establishing a just balance and giving everyone his due right.

If justice builds and strengthens nations, then tyranny destroys and annihilates them.

The verses of the noble book [Koran] act in solidarity in pronouncing this truth. God, may His majesty be praised, says: "We have annihilated the generations that preceded you when they turned unjust." God has also said: "Your God will not destroy villages unjustly when their people are peace-makers." He has further said: "And We destroyed those villages when they turned unjust."

Thus, nations are built with justice and destroyed with tyranny.

As for charity, it is a bonus beyond justice, meaning that if justice is the base, then charity is a favor and an act of generosity. This is why

God says in regard to justice "and if they [the just] are subjected to tyranny, they shall triumph" and says in regard to charity "and if they [their relatives] get angry, they forgive." God also says regarding justice: "the punishment for a misdeed is a similar misdeed."

God, may His majesty be praised, has said: "O you believers be upright and just witnesses and (let not people's hatred for you prevent you from being just) because justice is closer to piety. And have the fear of God in your hearts because God knows what you do."

With justice, the heavens and the earth have been created and with justice, tranquil and reassured life is secured. Justice is the balance of straight life. With justice, the souls are reassured, the hearts are made happy and individuals feel secure about their rights and rulers secure about their lives. Any society where justice is absent among its members and where the mainstays of justice are destroyed deserves to be humiliated and debased. The infallible [prophet Muhammad], may God's peace and prayers be upon him, according to Mu'awiyah, may God be pleased with him, said: "No nation in which justice is not dispensed and in which the weak cannot get his right from the strong shall be held sacred."

A wise man is a man who holds himself above injustice, who is fair to God and who obeys God, doing what God orders him to do, refraining from what God prohibits, and who remains vigilant to God openly and secretly because God and His prophet are more beloved to him than anything else.

Here is a bright picture of the life of al-Faruq [caliph 'Umar ibn al-Khattab], may God be pleased with him. A Persian saw the caliph sleeping soundly under a tree without any guard around to protect him. This is because the caliph was just. The Persian stood there with wonder and asked: "Is this the prince of the faithful?" He then said: "You have ruled justly, you feel secure and, therefore, you sleep soundly, O 'Umar."

Depicting this scene, the Poet of the Nile [Hafiz Ibrahim] says:

The Persian saw 'Umar among the flock whose shepherd he was;
Sleeping on the ground under the shadow of a tree;
Wrapped in his threadbare robe that was worn out by time;
He saw him sleeping soundly and saw in him majesty at its most sublime;
And he thought of the kings of Persia surrounded by walls and troops to protect them;
And then he said a word of truth that has become a proverb
And that has been told generation after generation:
You feel secure because you have ruled justly,
Thus sleeping soundly and peacefully;
I have been one of its archenemies,
But thanks to your God, I have now become one of its bastions.
[Very loose translation]

This is why 'Umar, may God be pleased with him, said: "If a mule stumbles in Iraq, God will ask me: Why didn't you pave its path, 'Umar."

It is told that the prophet of God, may God's peace and prayers be upon him, said: "One day from a just Imam is better than 60 years of worship and a restriction established justly on earth is better than 40 mornings of rain."

It is told that the prophet, may God's peace and prayers be upon him, also said: "The man most beloved and closest to me on the day of resurrection is a just imam and the man most hated by God, may He be praised, and farthest from my council is an unjust imam."

If this is the place of justice, then charity tops justice with kindness, compassion and generosity. Charity also has another meaning, as pointed out by the faithful and sincere Muhammad, may God's peace and prayers be upon him, when he said: "Charity is to worship God as if you see Him. If you don't see Him, then He sees you." This is a meaning that raises the soul above the gloom of darkness and the abysses of the earth to high and proud peaks because it covers two levels: The level of seeing "worship God as if you see Him," and the level of watch: "If you don't see Him, then He sees you." The conscience thus performs its duty.

Can we possibly forget the attitude of the little girl whose mother used to adulterate milk? Prince of the Faithful 'Umar, may God be pleased with him, told the woman to stop her cheating but the woman kept on doing it. So her daughter told her: "Mother, hasn't the prince of the faithful ordered you to stop this adulteration?" The mother answered: "Can the prince of the faithful see us?" The daughter answered: "If the prince of the faithful cannot see us, God, the maker of the universe, sees us." It so happened that 'Umar was at the time making a tour to check on the affairs of the people and saw the woman adulterating the milk and said to her: Old woman, haven't I told you to stop adulterating the milk? She said: By God I haven't adulterated it, O prince of the faithful. Suddenly, the voice of conscience--the voice of the daughter--came from within the cottage, saying: Mother, do you cheat the milk of the Muslims, break your oath and lie to the prince of the faithful?

These words found their way to the heart of 'Umar, may God be pleased with him, with a ring purer than that of gold. So did 'Umar take a negative attitude toward the young girl? No, he married her to his son 'Asim to whom she bore a daughter, Layla, who married 'Abd-al-'Aziz ibn Marwan and bore him 'Umar ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the fifth [Ommiad] caliph--the pious, ascetic and compassionate caliph. The day this caliph died, shepherds atop the mountains said: Today 'Umar died. They were asked: And how do you know of his death? They said: The wolf has barked at the sheep and we have never known it to do so in 'Umar's lifetime.

Then the people checked the news, they found out that 'Umar has actually died.

During his life, 'Umar was asked about this astonishing phenomenon of the wolf tending the sheep as if it were their watchful dog and he said:
"I have been faithful to what is between me and my God and God has established faith between the wolf and the sheep."

Thus, the daughter of the milkwoman became a princess and a grandmother of the faithful.

It is thus that faith builds the souls and raises their edifices.

You have been right, O my master and prophet of God, when you said:
"Charity is to worship God as if you see Him. If you don't see Him, then He sees you."

8494

CSO: 4802

NATIONAL PARTY GOVERNMENT, DEPUTIES DISAGREE OVER CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL

Cairo Al-AHRAR in Arabic 12 May 80 p 7

[Article: "Discussion on Constitutional Amendments Reveals Split Between Government and Ruling Party Deputies"]

[Text] The members of the Democratic National Party Government and their deputies in the People's Assembly split against each other during the discussion on the constitutional amendments.

The hall would have turned into a fight arena between the deputies and their government had it not been for the wise leadership of Dr Sufi Abu-lalib, the Assembly speaker, who was able to steer the discussions to the shore of safety.

The disagreement was touched off by a proposal from deputy Jibril Muhammad (National Party) who said that formation of the consultative council should not abide by the 50 percent share of the workers and the farmers, as is the case in the People's Assembly and all the other organizations.

Jibril justified his proposal by saying that the consultative council is a council that must include a group of experts in various fields and that such experts may not (be found) among workers and farmers. He added that the council will have no legislative or control powers and can thus be exempted from this condition [of 50 percent share for workers and farmers].

Implementation Problems

The deputy brought up another problem which will face implementation when he asked: What will happen if a doctor or an engineer wins his district's elections and is then dropped just to meet the workers and farmers percentage? We will have thus contributed to dropping a specialization for which we are in the direst need.

The deputy's statements were the beginning for a sweeping explosion and rebellion on the part of the representatives of the workers and the farmers and the deputies who asked Jibril to sit down or else! The deputy was not able to complete his address.

Dr Sufi Abu-Talib tried to pacify the situation, saying: The disagreement concerns appointed members. He then asked the government to clarify the situation.

At this point, conflict emerged among the members of the party's government. Fikri Makram 'Ubayd then took the floor to say that his personal opinion, and not that of the party, is that the 50 percent share should be preserved for the workers and the farmers, asserting that this is one of the constitutional rules that cannot be ignored. He then again said that this was his opinion.

Party not Prepared

Counselor Hilmi 'Abd-al-Akhir, the minister of state for the People's Assembly affairs, then took the floor to add further conflict to the situation by asserting that the party and its agencies were not prepared to answer this point, if brought up.

'Abd-al-Akhir added: The opinion belongs to the people ultimately and the government's opinion on this issue is not required.

According to what is understood, this council does not question the government and the president of the republic has the absolute right to select whomever he wants to the membership of this council [sic].

Hilmi 'Abd-al-Akhir then backed down on these statements in order to deal with the worker and farmer rebellion facing him and to overcome the embarrassing position in which he found himself, saying: No one in the country has the right to swerve from the constitutional principle and the president of the republic has the right to choose.

Mukhtar Hani, the committee [not further specified] rapporteur, said: There must be harmony among the provisions of the constitution. Article 87 of the constitution stipulates the 50 percent share for the elected members. As for the appointed members, we cannot commit the president of the republic to abide by this percentage.

As a result of this partisan and governmental confusion, the opposition, represented by Ibrahim Shukri, the Labor Party chairman, demanded an explanation on the situation. Shukri said: The government must clarify its position. If there is an intention to apply the 50 percent share, then this must be stipulated at the end of the article.

Hafiz Badawi, the Legislative Committee chairman, said: We must be frank with ourselves and we must remember while drawing up the legislation for the consultative council to follow the course followed by the constitution. There is a well-known rule from which we should not swerve.

Workers Deputy Defends

Workers Deputy Nawal 'Amir said that the workers and the farmers have offered the homeland nothing but patriotism and sacrifice. If the president of the republic is free to choose, then he is sure to preserve the rights of every citizen.

Engineer Ibrahim Shukri, the opposition leader, said that the consultative council should not be a mere agency under the control of the president of the republic and that this council should have its role also. He proposed that a provision be inserted stipulating the right of the People's Assembly speaker to refer to this consultative council the issues that he deems fit to refer to it.

Deputy Mahmud Abu-Wafiyah noted that the articles concerning the consultative council have not made clear the council's fundamental jurisdiction and said that he believes that the council will meet to discuss the crises facing the country or the developments cropping up in our national unity. He added: Naturally, the council will meet to discuss such matters.

Dr Sufi Abu-Talib settled the situation by stating: The council will not be an exact image of the previous senate or of the Central Committee. However, the council will have powers, such as expressing its opinion on matters concerning the country's supreme interest and studying and proposing bills with the purpose of expressing views and of advice only.

8494

CSD: 4802

ARTICLE 5 - REPORTS OPPOSITION VIEW ON POPULAR JUDICIARY

Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 12 May 80 p 7

[Article by Hilmie Salim: "Liberal Party Projects Its Visualizations on Rebuilding State; Another Correction Movement Needed; Rejection of Consultative Council; Head of Family Far From Parties; Free Press Owned by People; Separation of Four Authorities"]

[Text] In its latest meeting, the Liberal Party General Secretariat has stressed the need for embarking on another correction movement that deals with the form and method of work of the four authorities--legislative, executive, judiciary and press--and the need to separate these powers to prevent their encroachment upon one another.

The General Secretariat has also rejected the consultative council in its present form and stressed the need for the presence of a second legislative council with the powers of parliamentary councils and even with the power to reexamine the laws issued by the People's Assembly.

The discussions have also dealt with the failure of the current open-door economic policy and the inability of the government to meet the needs of the masses by virtue of its being a government of negotiations [sic].

The General Secretariat has also urged President al-Sadat to give up the chairmanship of the Democratic National Party so as to underline the freedom of the sound democratic action and to guarantee the success of the partisan experiment.

The Liberal Party General Secretariat held its weekly meeting last Tuesday under the chairmanship of Mustafa Samil Murad, the party chairman, to discuss the most important domestic events and the expected changes with which President al-Sadat dealt in his Mayday speech.

Separation of Powers

The General Secretariat discussions also dealt with the need for separation of the powers so that no branch may overwhelm another and no branch

any岐junct from the others. As for the legislative authority, it must complete its legislative term and must not be dissolved before this term ends. Moreover, the People's Assembly right to withdraw its confidence in a minister has become a mere theoretical right, as proven by the political experience. Therefore, consideration must be given in the possibility of empowering the head of state, in case he heads the cabinet, to withdraw confidence from the ministers, considering that the ministers are accountable to him.

Rejection of a consultative council

The general secretariat has asserted its rejection that the consultative council be an additional power.

As for the executive branch, the situation makes it a must to delegate power to down to the lowest levels and to develop the control agencies so that they may keep up pace with the age in which we live. The inflexibility of these agencies has led to obstructing production. Despite the presence of these agencies, graft, laxity and negligence persist. Moreover, the slow bureaucratic routine obstructs production and is incompatible with the open-door policy. This has caused foreign investors to regret their investments in Egypt.

The General Secretariat has also asserted that the current government has ignored all its efforts and time on the self-rule negotiations concerning the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This has led to the government's inability to meet the essential needs of the masses. The government has also failed to utilize all the resources of the western countries supporting Egypt.

The Socialist members have said: The picture that is now clear to everybody in the world is that Egypt has become a society that is backward in all aspects of life. This requires a vigorous shakeup in all spheres of life, along with the need to find a new view for organizing the state apparatus in the field of services and production, to free this apparatus from bureaucracy and to benefit from the countries of the world that have supported Egypt since the peace initiative.

The General Secretariat has also stressed the need for the judiciary to regain its prestige and status and to have its administrative and financial independence. The General Secretariat has welcomed the transformation of the press into a fourth estate. But it has stressed, however, that the press ownership should revert to the people in the form of shares.

Al-Sadat, Father of Egyptian Family

From the evaluation of the democratic experiment under the canopy of the military system, the General Secretariat has reached the conclusion that the survival of the government is tied to several considerations, the most important of which is that President al-Sadat give up his position as chairman of the National Party and be the father of the Egyptian family

Because this will enrich the democratic experiment and will enable it to realize its goals of achieving the country's supreme interests and of the free and clear expression of opinion without sensitivity, thus strengthening the franker opinion and bringing it out to the light.

Regarding the Arab Reality Paper, the General Secretariat has decided to present it to the party's rank-and-file members to express their opinion on it so that these opinions may be gathered in the first half of the coming month of June out of faith that the party should always struggle to express its viewpoint on the issues facing the masses and out of the party's faith that it is necessary to bolster the experiment with the franker opinion reflecting clearly and sincerely the view of a broad base and sector of the citizens.

The General Secretariat members have also expressed their interest in what President al-Sadat will deal with in his forthcoming speech on the occasion of the People's Assembly Day on 14 May.

8134
Date: 4802

CONSTITUTIONALITY OF NON-JUDGES PARTICIPATION IN COURT QUESTIONED

Cairo Al-AHRAR in Arabic 12 May 80 p 8

[Article by Counselor Mumtaz Nassar: "There Is no Place for Non-Judiciary in Values Court"]

[text] After a heroic struggle by the opposition with all its currents, both partisan and independent, the majority has been able to pass this law [of shame] with all its restrictions on the democratic action and with the burdens it imposes on the rights and liberties guaranteed by the constitution to all citizens. One of the issues over which there has been heated arguments between the two sides is the issue of whether article 170 of the constitution permits the non-judiciary to take part in issuance of the sentences of the values court which has been created in accordance with this law.

Whereas the opposition stresses that article 170 of the constitution does not permit the participation of non-judges in issuing sentences, that the participation of such individuals in issuing such sentences is incompatible with the principle of the separation of powers underlined by the constitution, and that the participation of non-judges lacking neutrality, impartiality and independence and immunity against dismissal undermines the essence of justice and denies the citizen the guarantee of resorting to his natural judge--and this is a right to which every citizen is entitled in accordance with the law--whereas the opposition stresses this, the government disputes this argument and says that article 170 of the constitution permits the participation of non-judges in issuing sentences on the grounds that this is considered a participation in justice affairs.

In view of this difference in opinion, we will present the matter over which the two sides have disputed with some detail and this will show that the opposition has been truer and on the sounder path. Here are the details:

Article 170 of the constitution states that "the people participate in establishing justice in the manner and within the limits spelled out by the law." It is evident from this provision that the constitutional

Legislator has confined himself to the word "participation" in establishing justice. Participation means the public holding of [court] sessions to realize popular control. Participation means that sentences are issued in the name of the people in their capacity as the source of all powers. Participation means taking part in reconciliation councils in the manner described in article 64 of the law of litigation. It is axiomatic to say that the people's participation in establishing justice does not mean participation in issuing sentences. Any statement to the contrary deprives articles 65, 66, 68, 165, 166 and 168 of the constitution of all meaning. When these articles speak of the judge's immunity, impartiality, independence and neutrality as one of the people's guarantees, they mean confining the issuance of sentences to those impartial, immune and independent judges. Others may not take part in issuing a sentence, else all the guarantees that the constitution has placed in the judiciary in their capacity as an authority independent of the other authorities and one that dispenses justice among the people will be lost. It is an acknowledged thing that underlining the judge's independence in the performance of his duties constitutes the essence and heart of justice. The revolution's successive constitutions have been careful to stress the independence of the judge by not making him subject in the performance of his duty to any authority other than the constitution and the law. The judiciary authority law No 43 of 1965 which has been superceded by law No 46 of 1972, has been careful to secure all the guarantees that reaffirm a judge's independence and impartiality. All these qualities of neutrality, impartiality and independence in the judge contribute to the judge's behavior during the performance of his duty. This is why the nation's primary task is to make sure to entrench the elements that lead naturally to securing the neutral judge because we cannot expect to find neutrality in the judge if the system and philosophy of the judiciary require him to be partial. Similarly, we cannot imagine to find in him the ability to say the word of the law if the system and philosophy of the judiciary do not require him to know the law. We also cannot expect to find impartiality in the judge if the system and philosophy of the judiciary require him to have prior knowledge of the dispute presented to him. To avoid the elements of partiality in the judge, it is required that he be prohibited from adopting in his sentences any philosophy other than that expressed by the laws which he is required to apply through the collective social current and not through his personal ideas or individual beliefs. It is also required that the judge be prohibited from joining any organizations that defend class, sectarian or professional interests.

To secure the ability for saying the word of the law, it is required to nurture the system of the specialized judge by which the country has been reassured since the judiciary reform in accordance with which the system of the (judgement courts) was abandoned. When the desire to experiment caused the country to swerve from the system of the specialized judge, the experiment with both the old and the new proved a failure--whether in the courts, the five-man councils or in the committees for arbitration of agricultural disputes. This failure was confirmed by the technical

and by the official reports and statistics and the people renounced it before the legislation amended it. It behooves us to warn in this regard of the error of confusing the popularity of the judiciary and their election with the lack of specialization among judges. The popularity of the judiciary only means that the judges understand the prevailing social and economic spirit that realizes the interest of the entire people. In other words, this means that the sentences of the judiciary--and not the persons of the judges themselves--should not (disregard) the reality of the nation and the people's general interests so that they may present the appropriate legal formula that reflects justice in its advanced social meaning through application of the rigid provisions. This does not automatically require that the judge be unspecialized, undedicated or elected because such a judge may fall under the influence of the side by which he is controlled, the influence of the creed in which he believes or the influence of the voter who has raised him to the position.

On the other hand, the call for the participation of unspecialized and undedicated people in performing the message of justice will essentially lead to eliminating the power of the judiciary and to undermining the judge's independence because this call permits the administrative side to form administrative committees which it controls and to which it entrusts the task of examining the appeals against this administrative side's decisions and to decide on disputes in which this side is involved. The administrative side then proceeds to attribute the quality of sentences to the decisions of these committees, even though the committees are in fact nothing more than a reflection of the wishes of the administrative authority itself.

Impartiality requires that a judge be denied whatever gives him prior knowledge [of a case before him] so that his judiciary action may start from a clean page. This requires primarily that a judge be prohibited from joining a political organization because of the psychological and intellectual influence that such an organization exerts, not to mention the subservience that the gradual rise in the ranks of an organization imposes. This is in addition to the non-judiciary aspirations and ambitions that the accession to a political organization ignites in a person--aspirations and ambitions that may transfer the struggle to within the judiciary organization itself and that lead, by necessity, to deviation and deception. All these are serious pitfalls that are not countered by any real gain for the message of the judiciary or the message of the political organization entrusted with taking care of the public welfare.

There has been a discussion on the issue of the popular judiciary and on whether it is beneficial or not and there has been a big argument over this matter. The Court of Cassation's General Assembly and the Legislation Section of the State Council have dealt with this matter and both sides have concluded that the idea of the popular judiciary should be excluded and that non-judges should not be permitted to take part in issuing judiciary sentences. Perhaps our national experiences contain the proof

for that which the Court of Cassation's General Assembly and the Legislation Section of the State Council have concluded. Until the year 1268 of the Hegira, lawsuits were presented to [district] officers and to governors to settle them in accordance with the instructions and circulars issued by the (Judgment Court) and the Special Court.

Judgement, guardianship and (akhtat) courts were then set up and a non-judiciary element was included in the structure of each of those courts. The (akhtat) courts were later abolished and the ruling of the report of the legal counselor that called for the abolition of those courts said: "The sentences of these courts have been void legally."

The agrarian reform committees were then formed in accordance with law No 178 of 1952. Throughout 8 years, those committees failed to realize their message and so the legislator intervened and assigned their chairmanship to a judge, even though their members continued to be non-judges and unspecialized individuals who did not have the immunity and the guarantees of judges. These committees also failed in their modified structure because the lack of immunity and guarantees for the members and the lack of legal capability and specialization among them caused them to become a burden to the judges and this hampered making decisions on the disputes presented to the committees. Moreover, the judges were not certain of the impartiality and neutrality of the members. In 1966, the legislator replaced those committees by village committees to settle the disputes. The chairmanship of those committees was entrusted to agricultural supervisors and each committee included as members the village cashier, a member of the agricultural cooperative and a member of the Socialist Union. The legislator also permitted appealing the decisions of those committees to another committee formed of a lower court judge as chairman and of two members like the members of the former committees.

There was widespread complaint against these committees because of the presence of the non-judiciary element in their structure.

As for the reconciliation councils [mahakim al-sulh] in the new law of litigation, article 64 of the law of litigation which set up these councils has not been implemented yet because of the strong criticism directed at these councils.

This review shows that including non-judges in the issuance of sentences on the grounds of having the people participate in the affairs of justice has already been tried in our country and has proven its abysmal failure. Therefore, there is no place for returning to the participation of non-judges in the issuance of the sentences of the values court on the grounds that article 170 of the constitution stipulates the people's participation in establishing justice. The first and second edition issued in the first year of the publication of MAJALLAT AL-QUDAH [Judges Magazine] contain several articles written by me, by Dr Muhammad 'Asfur, Counselor Yahya al-Rita'i and others and dealing with the idea of dropping the popular judiciary if we want the interest of justice in our country.

In view of all the aforementioned, the direction of the opposition in this regard is the correct direction from the sound legal viewpoint.

BRIEFS

NATIONAL PARTY REORGANIZATION--President Anwar al-Sadat's decision to rebuild the state and the National Democratic Party has evoked strong reactions at the various levels of the National Democratic Party and has spread among all the fear that the party's new formations will not include them. On the other hand, AL-AHRAR reporter in the partisan circles has learned that Husni Mubarak, the vice president and the National Party deputy chairman, has held a lengthy meeting with the General Secretariat members and that he discussed at this meeting the bases and visualizations for rebuilding the National Party. [Text] [Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 21 Apr 80 p 1] 8494

SALE OF IDEAL COMPANY--Engineer Ibrahim 'Atallah, the minister of industry, failed to appear before the People's Assembly last Saturday to answer the notification request demanding that he explain the reasons that urged him to sell the Ideal Company to the French Thomson Company. [Text] [Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 21 Apr 80 p 1] 8494

ASWAN HOUSING--Aswan--Reporter From 'Ali Mursi 'Ali--Ahmad Taha Husayn, the governor of Aswan, has failed to solve the problem of 100 apartments seized by former high-ranking officials in the governorate. Some of the officials rent these apartments furnished at present even though flood victims continue to live in tents. The high-ranking officials include: the former governor of Aswan, the former secretary general, the former security director, the former director of education and others. 'Abd-al-Munsif Hazin, the governor of Qina, has been able to solve this problem in his governorate by expelling the former officials after nullifying their leases. [Text] [Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 21 Apr 80 p 1] 8494

AMANUR TRANSPORT DIRECTOR--Husayn Kamil Dabbus, the governor of al-Buhayrah, has issued a decision appointing Anwar Hammad general director of the Car Transport Cooperative at a monthly salary of 200 pounds. The new cooperative director had previously occupied this position, was accused of financial embezzlement and of stealing documents from the cooperative and was sentenced to a six-month prison term at [hard] labor and the sentence was carried out. Governor Dabbus issued a decision dissolving

the cooperative's elected board of directors after Anwar Hammad had been released from jail. The governor also appointed As'ad al-Battat cooperative chairman and al-Battat appointed in turn Anwar Hammad in appreciation for his glorious past. The cooperative had become a "country estate" for the local government agencies which seized its salaries and incentives. This is in addition to a number of serious deviations that are included in the socialist public prosecutor's report. The elected council has received letters of thanks for its enormous accomplishments. But Dabbus acknowledges prison graduates only. [Text] [Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 21 Apr 80 p 1] 8494

NATIONAL PARTY OFFICIAL'S RESIGNATION--Abu-Shadi al-Kilani, the Democratic National Party assistant secretary general in al-Gharbiyah Governorate has resigned from his position in the party. [Text] [Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 21 Apr 80 p 1] 8494

JOURNALISTS UNION STATEMENT--The Journalists Union Council has issued a statement in which it reaffirms the journalists' commitment to the national unity. The statement also underlines the journalists' abidance by the press code of honor in publishing reports, without blackouts and without providing the opportunity for rumors. The council has also appealed to all the fraternal councils of the professional unions to hold a national conference to raise the banners of national unity so that Egypt may always remain a haven for the freedom of thought, for tolerance and for love. [Text] [Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 21 Apr 80 p 3] 8494

'AYN SHAMS HOUSING PROBLEMS--The People's Assembly members have demanded that the new housing units in 'Ayn Shams be redistributed to the inhabitants of al-Turjuman shacks who have already been moved to these units. The members have said that the governorate has allocated one room for each family whereas some families include 12 or 13 members each and this causes social problems. [Text] [Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 28 Apr 80 p 1] 8494

MUSTAFA AMIN'S UNION MEMBERSHIP--Finally, the Journalists Union Council agreed in its meeting on 1 April 1980 to re-register prominent journalist Mustafa Amin in the list of active journalists in accordance with article 36 of the union's bylaws which empowers the council to issue a decision binding to the union's Registration Committee. The Registration Committee has not yet met to implement this decision. [Text] [Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 28 Apr 80 p 1] 8494

BROADCASTERS ACCOMPANYING AL-SADAT--A number of prominent broadcasting figures which accompanied President al-Sadat to the United States have stopped over in London. On the way back, their plane landed in London and when it resumed its flight to Cairo, they stayed over in London to visit relatives and friends and to buy gifts. [Text] [Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 5 May 80 p 1] 8494

NATIONAL PARTY--The Parties Committee of the Central Committee will discuss in its next meeting the request for foundation of the nation's party (parti al-watan). The committee has turned down the request submitted for formation of the international progressive party. [Text] [Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 5 May 80 p 1] 8494

FAILURE OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES--Dr Mahmud Dawud, the minister of agriculture, has admitted the failure of the agricultural cooperatives. The minister has made the admission in a reply to a question raised at the National Party's Development Committee. The minister has said that the failure is due to the mismanagement of these cooperatives. [Text] [Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 5 May 80 p 1] 8494

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT SANDWICHES--Dr 'Abd-al-Razzaq 'Abd-al-Majid, the minister of planning, has announced at the economic symposium held by the Journalists Union that the government and the public sector have nothing to do with the beans and tu'miyah sandwiches and said that these sandwiches are controlled by the National Party. [Text] [Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 5 May 80 p 1] 8494

NEWSPAPER IN AL-JIZAH--A newspaper by the name of SAWT AL-AHARAM [Voice of the Pyramids] and consisting of 12 pages has been issued in al-Jizah Governorate. The paper contains a number of pages with advertisements and the remaining part speaks of the accomplishments and glorious actions of 'Abd-al-Fattah 'Azzam, the governor of al-Jizah, to enhance the position of al-Jizah. The governor's name is mentioned 15 times in the newspaper and his picture is published seven times. [Text] [Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 5 May 80 p 1] 8494

TRANSFER OF TELEVISION OFFICIAL--A decision has been issued transferring Husayn Fahmi Mustafa, the director of control over classified technical materials at the television [authority], from his position to the television garage. The decision has been issued by Tamadir Tawfiq, the television director. Husayn Fahmi started as an editor in the television newscast and later became a television commentator. He was then appointed as deputy chief of foreign relations at the presidential office and rapporteur of the Central Committee's Information Branch and then director of the classified technical materials at the television. Finally, the television director has decided that the garage is the fittest place for Husayn Fahmi's capability and so she has appointed him garage supervisor and nominated one of the female employees to fill the post of general director of classified materials. [Text] [Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 12 May 80 p 1] 8494

DISAGREEMENT OVER CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL--The National Party deputies have disagreed over the consultative council's powers during the discussions on the constitutional amendments. A part of the deputies believes that the consultative council should have full parliamentary powers and the other part believes that it should be subservient to the People's Assembly.

Counselor Anwar Abu-Sahli, the minister of justice, has not been able to settle the disagreement. Dr Sufi [Abu-Talib, People's Assembly speaker,] has turned to Dr Abu-Laylah to learn the legal opinion. [Text] [Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 12 May 80 p 1] 8494

PRESS WORKERS UNION'S PROTEST--The General Assembly of the Union of Press and Information Workers has decided to demand that the government hold the elections for representatives of the workers in the newspapers' boards of directors. The Ministry of Manpower has stopped the elections for the past 3 years. The union has said that obstructing the elections is in violation of the law. [Text] [Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 12 May 80 p 1] 8494

IRON AND STEEL VIOLATIONS--The Administrative Control has begun investigating the details published by AL-AHRAR regarding the violations committed by the Iron and Steel Company. The details include the paying of astronomical wages to 250 Russian experts who do not work [sic in the company, rewarding 16 employees by promoting them to the rank of general director after the company had lost 9 million pounds and the dismissal of 1,200 workers from the Aswan iron mine in order to hand over the mine to the private sector. [Text] [Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 12 May 80 p 1] 8494

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY DAY CELEBRATIONS--Mustafa Kamil Murad, the Liberal Party chairman; Maj Gen Salah al-Rifa'i, the party deputy chairman and Muhammad Murad al-Sibtasi, the party general secretary, will attend the People's Assembly Day celebrations to which President al-Sadat will deliver his awaited speech. The party officials have been invited by the People's Assembly speaker. [Text] [Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 12 May 80 p 7] 8494

MINISTER'S ATTITUDE TOWARD ASSEMBLY--Deputy Sami Abazah (from the National Party) has protested the conduct of Dr 'Abd-al-Hamid Hasan, the minister of state for youth and sports, and his negligence of his duty to appear before the People's Assembly and answer the questions presented to him by the deputies. Sami Abazah has said that the minister has not responded yet to a notification request concerning al-Shams [Sun] Club, that he has been content with dissolving the club's board of directors and that very serious matters taking place in the club must be explained by the minister. [Text] [Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 12 May 80 p 7] 8494

(Sect) 4802

EGYPT

LABOR PARTY RAPS GOVERNMENT INTENTION TO CONCENTRATE ON DOMESTIC ISSUES

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Apr 80 p 2

[Article: "Rif'at al-Shahawi Asks at Party's Weekly Symposium: Has Our Land Been Liberated That We May Devote Only Five Percent of Our Attention to Foreign Policy? Internal Rebuilding Underlines Failure of National Party and of Its Government"]

[Text] Rif'at al-Shahawi, the Socialist Labor Party secretary general, has expressed his surprise at the declarations that Egypt will devote only five percent [of its attention] to foreign policy and problems.

He has wondered: How can this happen when the problems of the Israeli occupation of our lands and of the Arab lands are still present and when we have not yet reached the comprehensive solution that satisfies all the parties in the Middle East?

Rif'at al-Shahawi said in the party's weekly symposium, held last Tuesday: I want to think benevolently and to believe that the reason for setting the five percent portion is that we have abandoned the method of negotiation after having become fed up with Israel's evasion, that we are about to close the door finally in the face of Israel and that we have turned to domestic building in preparation for the comprehensive liberation of our occupied land with a strong and free people who enjoy a real democracy and to whom the means of living are available.

Frank Admission of Failure of National Party and Its Government

Al-Shahawi stressed that what has been declared about devoting 95 percent of the state policy to rebuild the domestic structure means that the policy of the Democratic National Party and of its government has proven its failure and that it needs a fundamental change. He said: I see no meaning for the slogan of rebuilding the domestic structure unless the state of utter chaos in every utility is brought to an end and unless the supply policy is reexamined in a fundamental manner so that the people may find their food and their loaf of bread and so that every citizen may find a seat on the bus and a house to live in.

Al-Shahawi pointed out that the slogan of prosperity and of rebuilding the domestic structure has been raised in the wake of every crisis for the past 30 years. But this promised prosperity has never materialized because the crisis is confronted with nothing but slogans whenever it intensifies.

Rif'at al-Shahawi also discussed the Labor Party's position toward the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations, stressing that the party will reassess its position vis-a-vis the Camp David accords if Israel persists in its transience and if no progress is made in the self-rule negotiations. He pointed out that the party had already approved the Camp David accords, but with certain reservation. He asserted that if the others had taken these reservations into consideration, what is happening these days would not be happening.

The party secretary general also said that Begin's intrar is considered not an insult to the Camp David accords but an insult to the Egyptian people.

Labor Party Is not Decor for Democracy

Rif'at al-Shahawi then proceeded to discuss the Labor Party's role at the political and popular levels, stressing that the party is trying to perform its duty toward God and the people in all spheres. Politically, the party is trying to perform its duty toward the Arab cause and toward liberation of the Egyptian territories that are still under occupation. Domestically, the party is trying to perform its duties vis-a-vis the legislations that are drafted to confiscate liberties and suppress the people. It is also trying to tackle the exorbitant inflation and rise in prices.

Al-Shahawi stressed that the party emerged to the partisan and political life to perform its duty toward the people and not to complete the decor of democracy.

He also called for bolstering the party so that it may reach every spot in Egypt.

Rebuilding Is Done by Strengthening Opposition

Fu'ad Nushi, the Labor Party information secretary, had opened the symposium by expressing the belief that the recently declared rebuilding of the state is not done by further strengthening of the Democratic National Party to enable it to monopolize the political life but primarily by giving the Socialist Labor Party the opportunity to take part in solving external and domestic problems and to express its opinion through the various information media and through providing this party with offices throughout the republic.

Fu'ad Nushi then touched on the Labor Party's position vis-a-vis the Camp David Accords, stressing that the party was right in its reservations on self-rule and in its call for the deliberate normalization of relations.

Values Court Is Open Violation of Constitution

Regarding the law of shame, Fu'ad Nushi wondered: Why do defenders of promulgation of the law cling to article 170 of the constitution which stipulates the people's participation in the establishment of justice and rely on this article in forming the values court of members who are not specialized judges while ignoring article 165 of the constitution which states that "the judiciary authority is independent and is entrusted to the courts of the various kinds and levels."

Nushi asserted that the creation of a special court such as the values court is an open violation of the constitution with its powers and its structure.

Why Didn't Egyptian Negotiator Define His Position

Rashad al-Shabrabkumi, a member of the Labor Party Executive Committee, then addressed the symposium, comparing the position of the Egyptian negotiator and that of the Israeli negotiator before the both proceeded to Washington to hold discussions with President Carter. He said that before leaving for Washington, Menachem Begin held meetings with his cabinet to agree with his ministers on a definite position to be taken by Israel during his negotiations with President Carter whereas the Egyptian negotiator went to Washington with his ideas alone, saying before his departure that he would present alternatives, and alternatives mean concessions.

Rashad al-Shabrabkumi criticized the Egyptian negotiator for failing to define his position vis-a-vis Israel's intransigence. He cited as an example the Egyptian negotiator's position toward the issue of Jerusalem, considering that this negotiator has declared that Egypt agrees to the unification of the city, provided that East Jerusalem be under Arab administration. Al-Shabrabkumi wondered: How can this be realized when Begin declares clearly that the unified Jerusalem will be Israel's capital forever?

Labor Party General Congress

'Utiyan Sha'lan, the Labor Party secretary in al-Buhayrah Governorate, addressed the symposium, demanding that the party's general congress be held quickly so as to re-formulate the party's general program and so that the party may outline its opinion on the democratic process.

Sha'lan said: If a sound democratic life does not prosper, the party should withdraw from the arena so that it may not shoulder before the people the responsibility of the so-called democracy.

LABOR PARTY DELEGATION VISITS AUSTRIA, MEETS WITH KREISKY

Cairo M-MAR'B in Arabic 22 Apr 80 p 4

[Article: "Socialist Labor Party Delegation Responds to Invitation by Austrian Socialist Party; Delegation Holds Two Meetings With Chancellor Bruno Kreisky; Ibrahim Shukri Visits PLO Office"]

[Text] In response to an invitation from the Austrian Socialist Party to a delegation of the Labor Party, led by Engineer Ibrahim Shukri and with Dr Layla Takla, chairman of the party's Foreign Relations Committee, and Dr Hilm al-Hadidi, the assistant secretary general and the official in charge of the party's youth activities, as members, Engineer Ibrahim Shukri and Dr Layla Takla left for Vienna last Tuesday. Dr Hilm al-Hadidi did not accompany the delegation because he is in Australia at present.

A representative of the Austrian Socialist Party and the Egyptian ambassador were on hand to receive them [upon their arrival in Vienna]. Arrangements have been made for the delegation to stay at the Hotel de France due to its proximity to the Austrian Socialist Party headquarters and to the Austrian Parliament. This has made it easier to arrange the appointments within the short space of the visit. Many Egyptians and a number of the Arab brothers working in the Austrian capital came to the hotel to welcome the delegation, including Dr Ghazi Husayn, the accredited head of the PLO office which was opened in the wake of Austria's recognition of the PLO as the Palestinian people's representative.

The meetings held with the Austrian Socialist Party leaders have included the party officials in charge of the foreign policies generally and those in charge of the Middle East policy in particular. The meetings also covered the spheres of the parliamentary organizations, the youth organization and the research and information field. The itinerary for the visit had called for one meeting with Chancellor Kreisky on the afternoon of the first day but the discussions required another meeting which lasted until 7:00. During these discussions, the delegation felt the special attention which Chancellor Kreisky devotes to the issue of establishing comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East. He [presumably Kreisky]

give consideration to some underlining of the dimensions of the problem and to reinforce all the guarantees right of the Palestinians to determine their future and their right to establish their state. He has also insisted on that the efforts carried so far to establish peace are completely incompatible with leading to a breakthrough and reaching a deadlock as a result of the uncompromising stand by Begin, Israel's prime minister. The delegation gave much in explanation on the efforts being exerted by the western countries for establishing the rights of the Palestinians. It is obvious that one main role the presentation of the PLO by the western countries provides is political role in defining the current phase of establishing the right of the Palestinians to their state to the phase of dealing with the uncompromisingness of the Palestinians on accepting the creation of this parallel state. In the discussions, the delegation underlined the meanings of appreciation for the role of Chancellor Kreisky and the Austrian Socialist Party in exerting ceaseless and active efforts to establish a just and stable peace. It is expected that initiatives will be launched by western Europe generally to push the wheel of peace toward broader horizons, especially if the efforts being exerted currently fail to realize favorable results for Palestinian participation.

In his statements, the Austrian chancellor was eager to express his appreciation for the initiative made by President al-Sadat and to attempt to provide the correct explanation, reasons and motives for the pro-PLO statements made by western Europe recently.

However, a part of the discussions dealt with the conditions and system concerning the Socialist International.

The discussions generally have been dominated by a cordial atmosphere and by mutual welcome. Moreover, the information presented has been beneficial for both sides.

On the morning of the last day of his visit to the Austrian capital, Minister Ibrahim Shukri paid a visit to Dr Ghazi Husayn at the PLO offices in the fourth quarter of Vienna. The visit lasted for nearly 2 hours. After Ibrahim Shukri returned to Cairo on the same evening.

IAFFE has learned that Dr Iafra Takia has stayed behind to complete some procedural steps and contacts concerning preparation of the Socialist Party's request to join the Socialist International. It is well-known that the Democratic National Party submitted its request last fall.

SECTARIAN, JUDICIARY SEDITION DISCUSSED

CAIRO AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Apr 80 pp 6-7

[Article by Dr Muhammad Hilmi Murad: "From Sectarian Sedition to Judiciary Sedition"]

(text) The area to which the dear Egypt belongs is being swept these days by events that tell in advance whoever ponders them alertly and profoundly the explosions, changes, battles and confrontations expected to take place in the area and in which the two super powers--the United States and the Soviet Union--will play the main role while the small countries located in the area or close to it will take part in these events as a supporting cast. No country in the area will escape the consequences of what will happen.

This is why extreme caution and full alertness is required toward what is being hatched in the dark and toward the traps that are being laid down with the aim of realizing the planned goals of the current schemes. Moreover, the national duty requires that all causes of dispute and conflict among the citizens in the country be avoided because they serve no public interest but rather weaken the nation and scatter its efforts in sidebattles that divert the nation's attention from what is being hatched around it and what is being schemed against it.

Israeli Schemes in Area

This general picture of the conditions in our area is accompanied by Israeli schemes aimed at Egypt in particular and at destroying Egypt's cultural and economic mainstays and demolishing Egypt's entity and placing the area's countries so that the coast may become clear for Israel to lead and dominate and to realize its declared dreams of leading a Mediterranean common market and realizing the goal to which it still clings and which is written on the walls of the Knesset--namely the goal of an Israel "from the Nile to the Euphrates"--despite the peace treaty it has concluded with Egypt, despite the ceaseless efforts that the Egyptian government exerts to be courteous to Israel and to avoid whatever may hurt its feelings and even despite ceding at times that to which we cling

on our belief that such concessions will lead to gaining Israel's freedom of expansion.

Israel's task consists with state of isolation existing between Egypt on the one hand and the other Arab and Islamic countries on the other hand and is afraid that the relations and bonds between the two sides will be restored. And willing, they will be restored regardless of how long it will take to restore them. This is why Israel seeks feverishly to entrench the differences existing between the Egyptian government and the governments of the fraternal countries.

What is more, Israel wishes to exploit the occasion of this isolation to dominate Egypt internally and to dominate its economy, if possible, through the Sudanese capital that can come to Egypt for investment in the spheres that makes this goal.

However, the Israeli schemes for economic control are not the subject of our discussion today. What is of concern to us is to examine Israel's desire to instigate sectarian sedition so as to divide Egypt internally and to turn it into another Lebanon. This is no mere conclusion. Ben Gurion, the founder of the State of Israel, stated: "We must exploit the sectarian conflicts in the neighboring countries so that we may not be subjected to threats by adjacent major countries. Let us start with Lebanon." Moreover, Kissinger, who is a follower of the Jewish faith and previously a former U.S. secretary of state, is considered the philosopher of fragmenting the third world into religious mini-states because he believes that the creation of religious states will protect the presence of Israel as a philosophy and that division and instability are in the interest of the multi-national companies.

Therefore, it is our duty as Egyptians, both Muslims and Christians, not touchs the waters that muddy the waters and that permit those lying for us to swim in them in those waters. It is also our duty to be alert to any fabricated incidents that will be staged, such as the throwing of explosives in public places or the distribution of pamphlets attributed to the former officials or Moslems with the aim of inflaming feelings and dividing them.

Anytime Anywhere to government in Order That It May not Fall into the hands of others.

With this in mind, I draw the attention of the officials to what follows: once the government has actually fallen and to other officials and, if it is feared, the government may fall:

... It is but permissible to take the matter of the sectarian sedition issue and to use it as a curtain for concealing other issues, as happened during all the processes which was staged in Asyut in the wake of a conference held in a mosque in protest of giving asylum to the former cleric. This concerned the sectarian jingoes in many other places,

in Nasr al-Minya in particular where, very unfortunately, regrettable incidents have taken place. Most fires start with a small spark, as the proverb says. Perhaps we will remember that the ceaseless sectarian conflict in Lebanon started with fire being opened on the passengers of a bus. It is the duty to report the absolute facts and it would have been [the authorities] not to surround the stay of the former shah with the manifestations of the excessive welcome and hospitality which he has not been accorded even in the United States itself. This takes the issue out of the framework humanitarianism and compassion to the framework of backing and support which incite the feelings of some people who view such welcome and hospitality as a challenge to the Iranian people and the Islamic movement and as disregard to the accusations levelled at the shah and being investigated by a UN commission. These are accusations connected with human considerations and with torture and murder crimes committed with the knowledge of the SAVAK. It is my belief that humanitarianism is indivisible.

2. It is not permissible to ban reporting incidents that occur because this closes the opportunity to the spread and exaggeration of rumors and to distorting the causes of incidents and this leads to igniting sectarian feelings. The so-called national press has actually refrained from reporting on the incidents that took place in Asyut and Alexandria until the people heard about them from foreign broadcasting stations. The minister of interior then delivered his belated statement before the People's Assembly. To reassure the citizens, it is not permissible to have the reports published by the Ministry of Interior for fear that some people may think that the purpose is to calm down the feelings or to defend the violations committed by the police. The reports should be published on the basis of a statement from the investigation authorities.

3. It should not occur to the mind of any official that the people's earnestness to extinguish any sectarian sedition is an opportunity for striking the Islamic groups because of their stances which oppose the government policies at times. Persecution and torture can only make people cling more strongly to their beliefs and may even push them to engage in underground action or violence and this causes the gravest harm to security and stability. If some of these groups have swerved from a correct understanding of Islam, then correcting them can only be accomplished by discussion and persuasion and not by suppression and persecution. To accomplish this goal, it is required that the freedom of the press be guaranteed, that the restrictions imposed on the expression of opinion be lifted and that the freedom of holding public symposiums and meetings be guaranteed, without permitting the attempts to disrupt such meetings or to surround them with an atmosphere of intimidation. Nobody should imagine that to persuade people, it is enough to have a legal religious opinion [state] expressed or to have the holder of an official religious position interviewed because what is said by the holders of such positions is believed by some people to be said at the government's request and in support of its policy. This is what makes us, along with others from the

political parties and the religious groups, demand that the shaykh of al-Azhar and the mufti be elected from among the prominent uloma so that certainly one thing that they owe their positions to certain people.

Security and the Muslims and Christians

For the Christians or radical Muslims and Christians, I would like to tell the Muslims among them that God, may His majesty be praised, has said "There shall be no coercion in religion" and "debate with the followers of the book with the most amicable ways only" and "if your God had so wished, he would have made all people a single nation." Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and prayers be upon him, says: "Whoever harms a dhimmi (or dhimma is a non-Muslim living in a Muslim society) harms me."

I also tell the Christians that safety and justice are secured for them under the canopy of the true Islam which declares through its prophet: "They are entitled to what we are entitled and they shoulder what we shoulder." I also tell them that their right to exercise their religious rites and to apply their religious laws to their personal status affairs--both of which are the demands that the Christians have wanted stipulated especially along with the proposed constitutional provision making the Qur'an that is the data source of legislation--are also indisputable as far as Islam is concerned.

What do the intervening and I hated in this critical time? I appeal to the leaders of the Islamic groups to demand self-discipline [from their followers] and I urge that the Muslims give an example in this regard by virtue of their being the overwhelming majority and to foil the opportunity of those who seek to harm them. I urge them to do all this while abiding by their faith and by the tolerant Islamic Shar'i'a. All the parties concerned should notify the authorities concerned of any violation that takes place so that these authorities may apply the law relentlessly and impartially. Let all know that no religion is weakened by the efforts to entice one of its followers to abandon it and will not be strengthened by new members joining its ranks. The fact is that there is no good intention if the transformation is not out of faith and conviction but is intended to realize a personal benefit or goal.

Opposition to the sectarian Sedition in Law of Shame

and go away from the arena of the sectarian sedition which is rearing its head to the bitter party division which the government is trying to incite. Considering my opposition to the so-called law "to safeguard values and traditions," I urge it to withdraw because the bill on this law has aroused the anger of the people at opinion and of those working in the legal field and because it has been opposed "In principle" and in terms of the principles mentioned by more than its provisions by the general assemblies of the C.C. Council (the counselors), by the counselors of the State Council, by the ministers, by the administrative prosecution, by the Lawyers

written, by the journalists' Union, by the teaching faculties of law colleges, by the Alexandria and Cairo Associations of Human Rights Supporters and by the political parties, excluding the ruling party. The law has also been opposed by the intellectuals and the people of opinion as a terrorizing law that kills the freedom of opinion in the country.

Moreover, this bill that has passed all the phases and that only needs to be approved by the People's Assembly next week contains principles and provisions that are considered an encroachment upon the judiciary, a deviation from the principles of the existing constitution and a violation of the internationally acknowledged human rights. There isn't enough space to repeat here all that has been said in the statements issued by those organizations and in the articles published by AL-SHA'B in protest of this freedom-shackling law. So I will restrict myself to the flaws contained in the final form of the bill and what has cropped up in it in its final phases:

1. This law innovates a new responsibility in addition to the criminal responsibility and the administrative responsibility, namely the political responsibility. Thus, the citizen can be punished more than once for the same action. If the administrative responsibility can be defined as the responsibility resulting from being a civil servant, the innovated political responsibility, along with the criminal responsibility, affects every citizen because it is not confined to professional politicians.
2. The law gives the socialist prosecutor, who is a civil servant controlled by the People's Assembly and accountable to it--meaning that he is a political appointee and not a member of the judiciary--the exclusive power to interrogate and to file lawsuits against the crimes defined by the law at issue. The law has thus stripped these powers away from the public prosecution, keeping in mind that the socialist prosecutor is nominated by the president of the republic, who is also the chairman of the ruling party, and that his appointment is approved by the People's Assembly which is also comprised in its overwhelming majority of the ruling party. The president of the republic also determines the financial recompense to be given to the socialist prosecutor. This prosecutor may also be dismissed from his position by a majority of the People's Assembly at the request of assembly members if he loses the trust and the regard required in his position. This means that the prosecutor's appointment, his grade, his continuation in office and his dismissal are done by the ruling party. After all this, the prosecutor is to bring to account those who oppose your party in political opinion!
3. The actions considered by the law of shame crimes that require political intervention include indeterminate qualities and phrases on whose interpretation any two people will disagree. This is incompatible with the rules of criminal legislation because this law holds the citizen responsible for actions which the citizen may consider permissible--actions such as harming the country's national interest, corrupting

expanding socialist peace or national unity to danger.
In other cases, this law refers to other special laws issued under extraordinary circumstances, such as the laws issued in the wake of the coup d'état of 31 January 1977 and in the wake of the 1978 referendum.

As to the form in which it has been referred by the Council of Ministers in the People's Assembly, the law of shame gives the socialist prosecutor the power stipulated in law No 34 of 1971 on regulating custodianship guaranteeing the people's safety. Law No 34 of 1971 was issued, as we have already pointed out in a previous article, before promulgation of the current constitution and many of the provisions of this law are in violation of the constitution. The dissolved People's Assembly had already referred this law to the Legislative Committee to make it compatible with the constitution, despite the unconstitutionality of law No 34 of 1971 which should have been abolished, especially after issuance of the law of shame which defines the socialist prosecutor's jurisdiction comprehensively, the Council of Ministers has clung to this law. This clinging is in conflict with the statement made by the chairman of the State Council and published in AL-AKHBAR on 13 April 1980 saying that the State Council's Legislation Section has demanded abolition of article 17 of the law which refers to the said law [No 34 of 1971] and which gives the socialist prosecutor the power to detain citizens in a certain place and to seize their property under custodianship. All that has been done is to compare this article with the article preceding it. This means that political detention is still present and that custodianship is permissible, in accordance with the reference to this void law, during the period of its propagation carried out with the knowledge of the socialist prosecutor. Meanwhile, the values court cannot issue such a sentence [on political detention or custodianship] when a charge is proven before it. In addition, it confined to denial of political rights, the right of participation in parties and the right of holding certain positions, in a truly strange situation.

5. The law gives the socialist prosecutor the power to exclude names from the lists of candidates for the membership of parliamentary and electoral councils and the boards of companies, associations and clubs. The prosecutor's decision can be appealed only before the values court whose decision is final.

6. The law of shame has set up political courts which it has called values courts and which include some judiciary elements and a number of public figures. With this mixed composition, these courts cannot be considered judiciary courts in accordance with the constitution which stipulates that the judiciary be independent and not subject to dismissal (articles 165, 166 and 167). These courts also lay upon the judiciary alien elements which must be interpreted to mean that the government does not feel concerned for the specialized judiciary.

whether or the judiciary elements are concerned, they are not selected from the same level or with the knowledge of the general assemblies of the courts. This law gives the minister of justice, who holds a political office and who is a member of the government, the power to select the judiciary elements from among the counselors of the appeal courts and the court of cassation, and this is something that does not evoke confidence in the heart of those presented for trial. This situation is not changed by the fact that the law requires the approval of the Higher Council of the Judiciary Authorities because the council will have no cause to object to the appointment of the counselors, considering that they possess the qualifications required by the law for holding the aforementioned judiciary posts.

As for the public figures, the minister of justice will also select them from lists prepared by the Higher Council of the Judiciary Authorities. These figures are not required to be holders of an M.A. degree in law. The council of Ministers has also disregarded the request by the State Council's legislative Section--according to the statement made by the State Council chairman to AL-AKHBAR--that these figures not belong to political parties so that there may be reassurance, at least to a degree, regarding their political neutrality.

To rely on article 170 of the constitution which stipulates the people's participation in establishing justice in the manner demonstrated by the law to say that this article permits the formation of popular courts constitutes an unsound argument because this article must be interpreted in light of the other articles of the constitution which stipulate that judiciary courts are the courts formed of independent judges who are not subject to dismissal. As for this article, it means--as the State Council has stressed since 1973--seeking the aid of popular committees for the purpose of reconciliation or of hearing the representatives of popular groups as experts or in another capacity to assist the judiciary and without permitting ordinary citizens to occupy judiciary seats for the purpose of issuing sentences. This is why article 170 has been careful to avoid the use of the words "judges, sentencing or court" so as to preclude any ambiguity.

As for the press statement made by Counselor Tahir 'Abd-al-Hamid, the State Council chairman, to the effect that this article means the permissibility of establishing a popular judiciary, it is in conflict with what the State Council's Legislative Section had already determined. What is remarkable is that Counselor 'Abd-al-Hamid was the head of this section when he made this determination. His excellency the counselor has cited here a new argument, namely that article 170 of the constitution, when it was first promulgated, had included another phrase after referring to the people's participation in establishing the judiciary, namely the phrase "provided that a sentence is issued by specialized judges." After the constitution was promulgated, this phrase had been deleted from the article and this means, according to the counselor, that popular participation in the structure of courts and in the sentences they issue

of polarization. This is an incorrect conclusion because the omission was intentional and misleading by excluding this redundancy and because the sentence is understood from the context of the articles preceding article 171 and interpreting that judiciary courts be formed of independent judges who are not subject to dismissal.

From the above mentioned, it is fully evident that shaking the judiciary institutions and forcing non-judicial elements upon it is unjustifiable in the eyes of the members of the judiciary, in the eyes of the law or in the eyes of the people of opinion, of journalists, of writers and of the people engaged in the political life.

Source
PDR - 0018

LIBERAL PARTY OFFICIALS NOT ALLOWED TO DISCUSS NATIONAL HOUSING POLICY

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Apr 80 p 8

[Article: "Party and People's Housing Committees Fail to Discuss Housing Policy"]

[Text] The People's Assembly hall has witnessed this story. In observation of the new bylaws of the People's Assembly, agreement was reached between Dr Sufi Abu-Talib, the People's Assembly speaker, and Engineer Muhammad Hasan Durrah, the deputy chairman of the Socialist Labor Party and chairman of the party's Housing Committee, and Dr Muhibb Istaynu, the party's Executive Committee member and chairman of the People's Assembly housing Committee, on the method of discussing the national housing policy. Agreement was also reached on the method of participation in the discussion, considering that one of the two men is the chairman of the Socialist Labor Party's Housing Committee and the other is the chairman of the People's Assembly Housing Committee and that each of the two men has an experience of more than 40 years in the sphere of housing. It was also agreed that the discussion would be on the national housing policy.

The discussion started and 26 Assembly members took part in it. During the discussion, Dr Sufi Abu-Talib left the hall and his place was taken by Muhammad Rashwan, the deputy speaker. Neither Durrah nor Istaynu were given the opportunity to address the session. However, Durrah insisted on addressing the session and was given the nod but when he took the floor and started his address, the minister of state for the People's Assembly interrupted him, demanded that the discussion be closed and called the minister of housing to reply to the address. The minister of housing rushed to take the floor and answer.

The question that Al-SHA'B asks is: In the traditions of democracy, what shall we call this that has taken place in the People's Assembly hall?

Give the Socialist Labor Party the opportunity to discuss the national housing policy, we will publish hereafter what Engineer Muhammad Hasan Durrah, the chairman of the Board of Directors of al-Jumhuriyah Contracting Company, the member of the National Housing Committee, the chairman of the Socialist Labor Party's Housing Committee and the party's deputy chairman who carries the experience of 40 years in these fields, intended to say at the Assembly.

NATIONAL HOUSING PROBLEM DISCUSSED

Al-Sirat Al-Sha'b in Arabic 22 Apr 80 pp 8-9

[Text by Engineer Muhammad Hasan Durrah: "AL-SHA'B Publishes What Muhammad Hasan Durrah Did not Say at People's Assembly; People's Assembly Discusses Details and Fails to Discuss National Housing Plan; Study on Population Issue; Periodic Committee Required to Follow up Implementation of Plan"]

[Text] The persistent urgency of any problem means paying attention to it, at least. This attention is a necessary means for reaching a successful fundamental solution and for elimination of the problem. But this persistence is futile unless the correct, objective and scientific method is followed. Our society's problems require penetrating study and examination before action and implementation and without emotion or exasperation. The issue, then, is not merely an issue of preparing reports or of turning out well-written articles and words to pacify the emotions.

Besides this and that, the problem is one of essential viewpoints. Theoretical thought always precedes practical thought and thinking always precedes implementation. This is some kind of strengthening awareness of all sides and aspects of a problem. Our leadership is, God be thanked, up to the level of awareness and of understanding our country's problems that require urgent solutions and various viewpoints beneficial to problems such as ours which have become complicated and have intensified and whose roots go back throughout long generations and whose accumulations have continued to grow and worsen, thus making it difficult to deal with them with individual views and to confine tackling them to a single viewpoint. The solidarity of efforts is a duty here and the democratic approach in this case is the most ideal way. He who seeks advice will not be disappointed, as our proverb says, and "they shall consult on their affairs," as the venerable Koran says.

Last week, the People's Assembly discussed the mother problem in Egypt, namely the problem of housing. The problem is considered primarily a national problem that affects every home and every family and it is supposed to be discussed at the national level so that we, as citizens,

we be able to offer every assistance, either with our thought or with our
experience, to help overcome the tribulation, especially under these
circumstances through which the beloved Egypt is passing.

It is known that I do not know and even though more than 30 members of the
People's Assembly delivered addresses and discussed the problem, I was
not given the chance to express my viewpoint through which I seek nothing
other than to offer every aid to the government and to draw the officials'
attention to some bottlenecks that may encounter implementation, some
difficulties in all elements of the problem and some negative aspects that
may have a major impact on failure to implement the plan. It is necessary
that we all admit that theoretical thinking is one thing and implementation
is another. This has been made clear from the experiences that I have
had in the sphere of housing and construction in the past 40 years.

When we discuss the state's housing plan on the pages of AL-SHA'B, we
hope that all the citizens concerned with this ordeal will send to us their
honest opinion so that we may put the interest of the homeland above every
other consideration. I also beg the gentlemen officials in charge of
affairs not to act haughtily and compete in making lengthy statements,
announcements and promises to reassure and pacify the masses when such
actions may in fact have an adverse effect that causes the loss of trust
between us and the people's working classes in solving their problem.

It is true that the problem is big and enormous and that it is the result
of successive accumulations throughout the past quarter century. His
excellency the prime minister has described it truly and sincerely as an
acute and complex problem. We do not deny that the government, represented
in the Ministry of Housing and the Ministry of Development and New
Communities, has begun to exert efforts to deal with the crisis and has
begun to give the issue special attention within the limits of the resources
available to it. But the present question is: Are the measures that the
government has taken so far, the resources made available to the two
ministries and the appropriations allocated for dealing with the problem
enough to conquer the problem, as the government has declared, or even to
stop new accumulations? This is what we will explain in detail.

In order to be objective and so that we may not confuse the issues
and elements branching from and directly connected with the problem, I
will divide the discussion into two parts:

The first part concerns the measures that have been taken since the govern-
ment decided to conquer the problem at the beginning of 1979 and until now,
including the state's plan for 1980. We will avoid backtracking to narrate
again the causes of the intensifying crisis, considering that these
causes have become well-known to all and that we have already discussed
them.

The author part 1 concerns the state's general plan to solve the problem, how far it has gone, and the means to overcome the current negative aspects in the implementation that are obstructing the solution.

Concerning First Part, Namely 1979 Accomplishments and 1980 Plan

The government has followed the right path by establishing a correct methodology for solving the problem. The prime minister's decree forming the National Housing Committee was issued in March 1979, as is well known, and the instructions for forming this committee called for preparing a draft national policy plan aimed at solving the housing problem according to a set timetable and within the limits of the available resources.

The committee formed by the state of top-level specialists in the field of housing completed its studies and submitted its report in August 1979. The report recommended a comprehensive plan beginning in 1981 aimed at solving the problem in 20 years, i.e. by the year 2000.

The committee stressed the need to exploit the remaining part of 1979 and 1980 for preparing an urgent housing program to provide the largest number of houses possible for the neediest families and to prevent any new accumulations, along with the preparations and arrangements to deal with the implementation of the general national plan which will begin in 1981 by preparing the lands for the projects of the first phase of the plan in integrated new population centers in the desert areas, by supplying these areas with utilities and by strengthening the contracting sector and providing the construction materials needed for the plan. This is the gist of the contents of the National Housing Committee's report for 1979 and 1980.

What are the measures that have been carried out since issuance of the decree forming the National Housing Committee and since the committee presented its report last August?

First, Concerning Ministry of Housing:

The minister of housing has noted that the numbers of needed housing units continued to accumulate until 1978 and that this accumulation stopped as of the beginning of 1979, considering that it was scheduled to build 15,800 housing units in 1979--of which 40,800 were to be built by the public sector and 35,000 by the private sector. The minister has further pointed out that the Ministry has implemented the plan, with an additional 1,500 units built by the public sector and 14,800 units built by the private sector, i.e. with an excess of 17,800 units over the number targeted for 1979, thus bringing the total number of units built in 1979 to 17,800 units [all figures as published].

We learn that no part of the student and worker housing, amounting to 12,000 units, was implemented in 1979 and assuming that all the units for which the ministry was responsible, numbering 27,000 units, were

and the government's main task is to make a statement to confirm or disprove the figure of 12,000 units in connection with the new and the second plan, contrary to what the [minister's] report says, that is, amount in the public sector, over which it is easy to control, myself being, of course, is concerned.

In our opinion, we have no official proof that it exceeded its mark of 12,000 units, as the report says. But to acknowledge the truth, we say that there are more than 100,000 units that have been built in the public sector throughout the country in the past 3 or 4 years with materials in particular, such as iron and cement, supplied to this sector at low and subsidized prices. These units are ready for occupancy but they have not been occupied yet for many reasons that we all know.

Therefore, I believe that the 1979 plan was not able to build the targeted number of 15,000 units and this intensified the problem further.

As far as the 1980 plan, we think the government for its response and for guaranteeing low-income housing for people with limited income, considering that it is impossible for these people to acquire housing without a subsidy to cover all the increases in the costs of the construction of houses and, correspondingly, in the value of its rent as the one hand and the income of those people on the other.

The 1980 plan of the Ministry of Housing calls for the construction of 100,000 housing units throughout the republic by both the public and private sectors.

Construction of the 100,000 units needed in 1980 is fully compatible with the national plan and realizes the hope of at least preventing new accumulations, provided that the plan is fully implemented.

This means delivering the 100,000 units in 1980 because we do not acknowledge the computation of units which are not occupied by those who deserve them and because there are tens of thousands of housing units that are built and used for various other purposes, such as offices, or said to companies and embassies or left vacant for numerous reasons which we are not about to discuss here. So the important thing is in the number of units actually completed and occupied by needy people in 1980 we as to also the continuous deterioration of the arrears.

But are the measures that have been taken and the allocations that have been made to carry out the work enough to implement the 100,000 units promised in the cabinet statement? The reality says something else, as is evident from the following details:

The allocations necessary to build and complete the 42,000 units undertaken by the government and the public sector in 1980 is no less than 120 million pounds. I believe that the current costs per unit, according

the same period, during this time Al-Ahram wrote the sum allocated to construction sector to 525 million pounds or one half what is allocated.

In my opinion of last 3 months, I will give a small example from the Governorate of Port Said, namely Damietta. The minister of housing sent a file memorandum or letter to December 1979 urging that bids for units around 400,000 units in 1980 be deposited as to gain time. When the government's budget was reviewed, it was found that the sum allocated was 300,000 units and not 400,000 pounds.

Also we know that a sum of 1.2 million pounds were allocated in 1978 for building projects in Damietta Governorate and that a sum of 800,000 pounds were allocated in 1979 and if we take into consideration the difference in the current prices, we find that there is a very wide gap between the sum allocated in preceding years and the sum allocated in 1980—the year of passing on the problem.

A large part of the 1980 fiscal year passed by the middle of April 1980 no construction projects in the new housing plan have been started yet because of the allocations.

With regard to ensuring the private sector by supplying it with construction materials—cement, iron and lumber—we find that in addition to the rise in the prices of lumber and to its unavailability as a supply commodity, the Ministry of Housing has issued instructions to the governors to determine their shares of supply materials according to the allocations made for them. This means that if there are local efforts to form cooperatives to carry out construction projects either by individuals or by construction cooperatives, then these people will not find construction materials. This is actually happening at present.

For these and many other reasons, we stress that the scheduled 1980 plan which aims for the construction of 100,000 housing units by both the private and public sectors cannot be implemented with the approved allocations and because of the time wasted without beginning the work. There will, furthermore, be new accumulated needs this year.

This has been confirmed officially in the report published by AL-AHRAM on 14 April 1980 which says verbatim on its frontpage:

"As for the national housing plan, AL-AHRAM correspondent has learned that it will be implemented, according to five programs, through the construction of six types of houses with areas ranging from 45 square meters to 120 square meters at the rate of 120,000 units annually, in addition to 60,000 units to meet the deficit and the accumulated needs in the current year."

and we know that the 1981 plan includes, as we have already pointed out--in addition to building the 100,000 units--preparing for the general (national) plan which will start at the beginning of 1981 by readying the construction lands, securing the construction materials and strengthening the construction sector, we find that the approved allocations can hardly meet the needs of building 50 percent of the required housing units. Consequently, there are no appropriations to prepare for the general plan, as we have already mentioned, and there is no clear view on the adoption of positive measures toward realizing this goal.

In view of all of this, I will repeat what I have already said, namely that if we are truly serious in solving the problem, then a specialized committee must be formed from within the People's Assembly to follow up implementation of the plan on the spot and to present its reports periodically, once in the middle of the year and once at the end of the year, to make sure of implementation of the plan and to tackle any obstacles that may encounter the implementation because any delay in carrying out the plan in which the people attach broad hopes will have the gravest effect on the problem and will be reflected in disappointing the hopes of the masses.

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WHAT REPLIES EGYPT AS ROLE IN U.S. HOSTAGE RESCUE OPERATION

AL-AHRAM in Arabic 29 Apr 80 p 3

[Article by Ibrahim Shukri: "Israel's Suspect and Destructive Role; Damaging Our Relations with Arab and Islamic Countries"]

[first] The reports broadcast last Friday on the abortive attempt of the United States to rescue its hostages have been a surprise to all Egyptians. After the expected initial surprise upon hearing the reports of such incidents--incidents that take the form of adventures, even though abortive ones, not knowing the dimensions and causes of the incident, "which are known to all," and learning of the losses, which have not been big--these reports could have evoked little interest in any Egyptian, Arab or Muslim in any country.

But this has not been the case and this is due to the report which has been broadcast by Israel's radio, led by "friend Begin," on the U.S. adventure and its details. From the first moment, Israel pointed out that the U.S. planes took off from a base in Egypt and were refuelled in Bahrain. This is what makes the report, as I have already said, one whose surprise to any Egyptian, Arab or Muslim a surprise that does not disappear quickly and this is what makes the incident one that calls for profound thinking and that evokes in the hearts of all sincere Egyptians, Arabs and Muslims grief, sadness and regret.

This is why Bahrain has hastened to refute the report officially and to deny the role claimed by these Israeli reports so as to clear itself of this alleged participation which is considered by all criteria a fall and a stigma, regardless of the degree of influence exerted by the great United States on the small Bahrain.

But how have the officials in Egypt reacted to the Israeli reports broadcast as of the first moment, as if Israel had had prior knowledge? We heard a shaky reply from the prime minister when he was asked about the taking off of the U.S. aircraft from a base in Egypt saying that he doubted such reports.

in contrast to a statement an abortive attempt at an answer in which the prime minister has tried to harmonize between an existing bitter reality and ideas which he wishes would materialize. But I don't think that the prime minister doesn't know the truth of the matter--even though he wasn't present in the United States when President al-Sadat met with President Carter because the [Egyptian] delegation was comprised of the minister of defense and others and did not include the prime minister, who is also the minister of foreign affairs and the head of the Egyptian delegation to the Egyptian-Israeli-U.S. negotiations, as a member of the delegation that took part in the negotiations [in Washington], even though Yosef Sarid, the head of the Israeli delegation to the negotiations, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shamir were there with Begin.

In matter what, the prime minister's reply has not provided a satisfactory answer. However, it has been a reply that has not confirmed the Israeli reports about Egypt's participation in the Iran venture and a reply that casts doubts on the truthfulness of the report.

There was then the reply published in the press and attributed to President al-Sadat when asked about the truth of the report. I will quote here what has been published in AKHBAR AL-YAWM:

"President al-Sadat was also asked about the truth of a report broadcast by the Israeli radio to the effect that Egypt has offered facilities in an Egyptian airbase from which the abortive U.S. rescue operation took off. President al-Sadat said: I have already promised the Americans to offer them facilities to rescue the hostages and to help any Arab country in the Gulf. This is my policy."

"When asked if the operation to rescue the hostages or any other military operation in the future will lead to the outbreak of war in the Middle East, the president departed without giving an answer."

There were other comments about the president's readiness to offer aid to any other attempt saying that the matter was a matter of bad luck for America, that it should not despair and that this is my policy [sic]!

If this is President al-Sadat's policy, then we declare that we are fully opposed to it. The matter is not one of American hostages and of a humanitarian view toward them. We share the feelings that they must be released. However, the matter concerns Egypt, its people and its future and a matter of ventures and of encouraging acts that may end up with the outbreak of war. Therefore, the issue is fully beyond humanitarian feelings and sentiments and matters should not be calculated in this manner.

Zionist Scheme

There is then this Zionist scheme that has become evident to whoever has two eyes and that has worked to incite sedition and division and there

One must agree with him that Egypt and the Arab countries from one side, and from another to us who are fighting and who is being eliminated here because we are all losers. Egypt will not be bigger without the Arabs and the Arabs are definitely weaker without Egypt and this is what Israel needs.

This is why Begin has exerted great efforts to attain this goal, even though Israel's attitude to this regard the apparel of a sympathizer and at the same time it understands Egypt's needs, responds to its demands, carries out the evacuation stage on schedule and even leaks false reports that it will evacuate from all the Egyptian territories a full year ahead of schedule. At the same time, the negotiations on full self-rule for the Palestinian Falter, and even come to a halt, we hear statements from Begin and his colleagues to the effect that the [West] Bank is liberated and we witness the construction of settlements every day to change the West's landmarks by increasing the Zionist presence in it and then by turning a shifted Jerusalem into the capital of Israel forever.

To put it briefly, Israel takes a rigid position toward the Palestinian fighters and tries to gain treason and understanding toward Egypt's demands so as to provide the argument and the confirmation to whoever wants to say that this peace has been a separate peace and not a comprehensive settlement to a problem whose ends are the Palestinian people and their right to determine their future. Israel is thus widening with this conduct the gap of disagreement between Egypt and the Arab countries and is pouring oil in the fire of distrust and we hear the descriptions of treason, terrorism, atheism and insanity being buried by the Arab leaders at one another while Israel watches all this with joy and sings the anthem of Clinton from the Nile to the Euphrates.

As if the "friend" Begin has not been content with the success he has achieved in damaging Egypt's relations with the Arabs, this fanatic Simpson wanted to present a gift to Egypt and its president by broadcasting the report of the takeoff of the U.S. aircraft from an Egyptian base. This action, regardless of the motive behind it, is an adventure and an act which the Muslim Iranian people consider an act of aggression against them. The sentiments of all the Islamic peoples, "regardless of how strongly the policies of their rulers are affected by the U.S. influence," can only be in sympathy with the Muslim Iranian people and against the U.S. policy and against whoever helps the United States to implement it. The radio of the "friend" Begin is thus putting us on one side and the other Muslim peoples on another.

The seed of sedition and division between us and the Muslim peoples is thus sown, considering that it has already become evident that the Muslim governments influenced by the Arab governments have taken an unfriendly position toward Egypt, have condemned Egypt's policy and have suspended Egypt's membership in the Islamic States Congress. This seed has been sown, even though the Iope has been attached to the Muslim peoples and

friendly intervention of Egypt's Islamic rulers--a hope which has encouraged some of us to wait for a respite of the Arab and Muslim peoples.

The role of Israel's radio has been in line with the well-studied Israeli policy implemented so far: The Muslim world is totally concerned with the Arab Jerusalem and no Israel insists on a united Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and the Egyptian policy approves one part, namely a united Jerusalem, with Arab sovereignty over east Jerusalem. But Israel picks up eagerly the first part of the sentence which reflects the Egyptian policy on the issue, namely a united Jerusalem, and adds to it "as the capital of Israel forever" to depict Egypt as its partner, even if by deception.

Then this abortive U.S. adventure takes place. It is a military operation against the Iranian government and people, regardless of how noble its goal is. It is an adventure by all calculations and it could have led to a major catastrophe and to the outbreak of war. This is what has urged most of the U.S. allies to express their dissatisfaction with the endeavor. However, a large portion of the U.S. people has considered Carter to be in the wrong insofar as this venture is concerned. Even the relatives of the hostages have not been happy with this attempt for fear of the reaction that could be generated as a result of its failure.

Dear Israel's radio becomes the source which announces Egypt's role in this abortive attempt so as to destroy Egypt's reputation among the Muslim peoples.

These results [sic] which we are stressing spell out Israel's Zionist scheme which seeks to implement Israel's policy with all the means--with war, with politics or with sedition--even if Israel has to don the robes of peace.

After all this, does the president still say: This is my policy?

Isn't it time for us to take a pause and to reexamine the policies that have alienated us from our Arab brothers, have weakened our position with the friendly Muslim countries, have troubled our relations with the nonaligned countries and have caused us to antagonize the socialist countries and to confuse the African countries?

The abortive U.S. attempt has shown this time, even though it may be successful in future times, what sort of dangers we are exposed to by taking part in any kind of such ventures, regardless of their results. The Americans may have been unlucky this time and they may be lucky another time. But insofar as Egypt is concerned, this time will be counted a fall against us and the Egyptian people's luck with such matters will always be bad. In any case, the Iranian people have been happy this time and the American people may be happy in a future time but we will only reap enemies and misery.

they just are ready in a thousand to make us take part in schemes that
originate from the Muslim or Arab peoples.

We appreciate the role of the U.S. aid and the U.S. efforts to establish
order—and I am not talking about giving the shah asylum or about the
rescue of the hostages because sentiments do not enter by a large or
a small measure into the calculations concerning the interests of peoples
and nations.

But our acknowledging our gratitude to the United States does not mean
that we should pay this exorbitant price that has cost and that is costing
the Egyptian people heavily.

If Egypt loses its position among the Arab, Islamic, African and nonaligned
countries, this loss causes damage not only to the Egyptian people. The
United States itself will gain nothing from this loss. The only and
constant winner is Zionism and Israel.

God is great and long live the people.

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CSO: 4802

SHUKRI RA'S CONNECTIONISM, EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL.

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 29 Apr 80 p 4

[Article: "Labor Party Chairman Declares in Asyut: Decision Must Be in Interest of People; Open-Door Economy Behind Inflation; Has Talk of Stabilizing Prices Turned into Mere Slogan?"]

(Text) Engineer Ibrahim Shukri, the Labor Party chairman, has asserted that Egypt is in the direst need of truthfulness in this current phase through which it is passing.

Shukri has also said that the people's interest should be taken into consideration when a decision is made and that the slogan of rule of the people by the people should be actually implemented in a manner that makes the masses feel that the decision is taken in their interest because this is the sound foundation of government.

He has also pointed out that some deputies of the Democratic National Party and some ministers of the ruling party disavow the responsibility for any decision and say when a decisions is discussed with them: You know how the decision is made.

At a popular conference held in Bani 'Adi and during his organizational meetings in Mansalut, Asyut Governorate, the party chairman has criticized the system of connections which has spread and become the rule which everybody follows, thus making it difficult for any citizen to get his right without a call from a state official, a People's Assembly member or somebody else.

Shukri said that the rule should be the people's public interest, pointing out that every system in the world is based on this rule. Ibrahim Shukri has also said that the state officials are free to give the system any name they want, be it democratic socialist, cooperative socialist or whatever, because what is important is that justice be dispensed without any connections to every citizen with a right.

Non-NPA Statements

Shukri added: we have had enough statements and we want action. I tell President al-Sadat that the system of statements and of not giving the opposition the opportunity to express its opinion on how to solve the problems, whether in the People's Assembly or in the government information media, can solve no problem.

Shukri pointed out in this regard in the incident in the People's Assembly where Engineer Mohamed Hasan Durrab, the party's Housing Committee chairman, and Engineer Faibis Istayna, chairman of the People's Assembly housing Committee and member of the party's Executive Committee, were prevented from taking part in the discussion on the housing problem. Shukri wondered: In whose interest is this failure to listen to the other opinion?

Work to Solve Problems Preoccupying People

The party chairman also discussed the problem of wages and of the constant rise of prices, saying that there is a fearful imbalance between wages and prices and that the wages paid to workers no longer encourage them to work but rather to avoid work and to seek other extra activities, regardless of whether legal or illegal.

Ibrahim Shukri has also stressed that inflation is the problem preoccupying the mind of the Egyptian people at present because hunger causes people to stop thinking.

The party chairman has also urged President al-Sadat to focus the state efforts on stabilizing the prices, has criticized the clamor raised by the various information media over the almost daily meetings of the National Party committees to stabilize the prices and has expressed his astonishment because these meetings have produced no results.

The party chairman has also expressed the belief that one of the causes behind the inflation is the open-door economic policy which has given a few the opportunity to make quick fortunes and to purchase whatever they want at the expense of the overwhelming majority of the people. The party chairman has warned of the consequences of this policy.

These Statements Don't Serve Egypt

Ibrahim Shukri has also criticized violently the recently published statements made by Sa'd Murtada, the Egyptian ambassador to Israel, in which he has said that the Pharonic Egypt is the Egypt that expelled the Jews from its territories whereas al-Sadat's Egypt has normalized the relations with Israel, adding that hundreds of Jews stand in front of the Egyptian embassy there to get visas to enter Egypt.

Shukri said that the statements are contrary against us abroad and that
we must force this committee to make true statements that do not
harm our country.

Law No 83: Living With Issues

Abd al-Jabbari, the party secretary general, has also said that political
action does not mean mere statements made in Cairo but rather means living
with the citizen's problems in every part of Egypt so that we may feel
their suffering and may be able to realize their aspirations.

Law No 83 is in God's hands.

Hisham 'Atiyah, the Labor Party workers secretary, discussed law No 83,
saying that only God knows when this law will be issued because the
committee assigned to study it is in a state of relaxation at present.
However, the Labor Party will continue its followup of the bill and will
not remain silent if it is not issued because the matter concerns 1.4
million workers.

Arms of Egyptian People Are Capable of Liberating Their Land

Muhammad Rustum, member of the party's Parliamentary Committee representing
al-Sahl District in Giza, has stressed that the arms of the Egyptian
people are capable of liberating their land if the peaceful means fail to
realize this aim.

It wasn't Sectarian Sedition But...

Dr 'Ali Nassar, an assistant addressed at the Asyut Agriculture College
and a party member, then stressed that what has happened in Asyut is
completely far from sectarian sedition and that the incidents were
fabricated to cover up the failure of the domestic policy.

They Want to Transform Egypt into Another Lebanon

Jalal Nada, member of the party's Executive Committee, then spoke to
stress that we reject the imperialist attempt to fragment the national
unity and to transform Egypt into another Lebanon.

Lawyer Thawfik Barham, a party member from Asyut, pointed out that the
venerable Khan and Shereef's family urge their Christians be treated
well and said that the Muslims and the Copts are brothers and the sons
of one homeland.

Shaykh Sayyid Idris Tantawi, a lawyer and preacher of al-Ibrahiqi Mosque in
Maadi, stressed that throughout the various eras of history Egypt has
not discriminated between Muslim and Christian and that all live as
equals on its soil.

'Yusuf 'Abd al-'Aziz, the party secretary in Mansalut, then pointed out that the so-called sectarian sedition is the result of alien materialistic currents coming from abroad and urged the Muslims and Christians to solve their problems calmly and in freedom from the dangers that threaten the unity of the Egyptian family.

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JOURNALISTS UNION CALLS FOR CONVENTION TO REAFFIRM NATIONAL UNITY

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 29 Apr 80 p 1

[Article: "Journalists Union Council Urge Holding of National Convention to Underline Elements of National Unity"]

[Text] The Journalists Union Council has held several meetings under Kamil Zuhayri, the Journalists Union chairman, to discuss the recent sectarian incidents. The council has also heard addresses from Ahmad Farghali, the [People's Assembly] deputy from Asyut, and Jibril Ahmad, the deputy from Alexandria--both of whom are union members. The council has also held a plenary meeting which has been attended by a number of prominent writers and journalists. The meeting has ended with the issuance of a statement consisting of the three following points:

First, on Underlining National Unity:

The journalists as a whole--and they are, God be thanked, free of whatever may arouse the fears of the dangers of sectarian sedition--feel that the principle of national unity between the Muslims and Christians in Egypt is a firm principle that has not been shaken throughout successive generation, a principle that Egypt bequeaths to its sons, a principle that we have inherited and that we will bequeath to those who come after us and a principle that we have found in existence and that we will leave behind alive and firm.

National unity is the shield protecting Egypt and the main secret behind Egypt's impregnability in the face of all the ferocious and violent attacks that have lurked for the homeland throughout history to occupy it, besiege it or to plot to drive a wedge in its national ranks.

The national unity of Egypt is not a mere temporary charter or a transient covenant. Egypt, as the first society in the world, has known the principle of unification since the time of Akhnaten. Egypt then became the meeting place of the divine religions. The message of these religions frees their followers of sectarianism and urges tolerance and love. Egypt has known in its constitutional life seven constitutions since 1866--i.e. in nearly

one and a third [sic] centuries--and all these constitutions have been founded on the four freedoms of faith, opinion, expression and the press. The freedom of faith has always been the most sacred of these freedoms in affirmation of the principle of equality of the citizens before the law and without any discrimination because of color, religion, creed, community or race.

If the first lesson of the 1919 revolution was the lesson of underlining this unity in the national action, then this deep-rooted principle has been further entrenched and has become a conviction and a creed, has come to govern the tolerant coexistence of the sons of this nation and their united struggle and has turned into an axiomatic ethical course that is reflected in their daily life.

Second, Regarding Responsibility of Journalists:

In view of their awareness of their responsibility in publishing news and views and in influencing the public opinion, the journalists believe that they should reaffirm their permanent abidance by the journalist's code of honor to publish the news without blackouts and without exaggeration which may result in confusion or in giving opportunity to the spreading of rumors and lies to those who cast doubts and those who are doubtful, few as they may be, regarding the national unity.

Third, on Union's Task:

The journalists believe that the professional unions that are free of discrimination and fanaticism shoulder the responsibility of reaffirming and entrenching the meanings of the sacred national unity and the responsibility of preserving it and clinging to it as the shield protecting the homeland.

Therefore, the Journalists Union Council urges the holding of a national convention in which the banners of national unity are raised so that Egypt may always remain for the Egyptians the haven of the freedom of thought, of tolerance and of love.

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CSO: 4802

CONDITIONS OF PUBLIC, PRIVATE HOSPITALS DEPLORED

CITRA AL-SHA'B in Arabic 29 Apr 80 pp 8-9

(Article by Hibatallah Yusuf and Mary Ya'qub: "Till When Will Catastrophe of Medical Treatment in Egypt Continue; Serious Pictures of Negligence in Public and Private Hospitals; Doctors Doyen Says: There is Deficiency in Training Doctors, Nurses and Hospital Workers")

(Text) An octopus of negligence is tightening its grip day after day on patients who "try to get treatment" in public hospitals but cannot find the physician who has the time or the training sufficient for diagnosis. If they find such a doctor, they cannot get the necessary drug. If the drug is found, it cannot do much good under the conditions of uncleanliness, bad food and the recklessness of some nurses and medical workers. If the patient tries to escape this octopus by seeking treatment in private hospitals, his loss is all the bigger because the treatment conditions are the same and the material costs [in private] hospitals are exorbitant and rising steadily.

AL-SHA'B presents this report on the catastrophe of [medical] treatment in Egypt to whoever is concerned.

We thus started in Bab al-Sha'riyah Hospital which is under the supervision of al-Azhar University and found there stunning examples of what the patients suffer. In the internal medicine clinic, we met with Wafayyah Amir, a poor citizen who showed the symptoms of despair as a result of the way she was being treated and who said that all the doctor had done was to listen to her complaint and write her a prescription without even examining her. The drugs prescribed were nothing more than sulfa and aspirin!

Maryam Yusuf, who suffers from rheumatic fever and cannot move because of it, has said: I sat for more than an hour in the waiting room of the outpatient clinic without finding anybody to help me get to the section in which I am to be treated. This wasn't all. I also found that the bed designated for me was covered with a bedsheets closer in its color to the color of the floor. When I complained about this, the nurse told me that

other patients' relatives, but another patient who needed to know "the known bribe" advised me to give the maid "the known bribe" and come over immediately to my request.

In the same section, we saw clean white sheets and when we questioned the patients, they answered bitterly that this is a well-known practice that occurs only when the doctors come around [for inspection] and that the dirty sheets are removed and the old ones put back as soon as the doctors turn their backs!

Director of the hospital against the complaints raised by the patients, Ahmad Jureidini, the hospital's financial administrator, has said that the hospital's resources are small and that it doesn't have its own laundry facility.

As for the way the patients are treated, every place has its good and its bad! As for the shortage of drugs, he said that the doctors are excused because they are governed by the drugs which the pharmacist tells them are available in the pharmacy!

In Manshiet al-Bakri General Hospital, we have found pictures that are almost an exact replica; rather, we have found that the hospital displays many cases of negligence. Citizen Muhammad Ahmad Fudah says: I once suffered a major injury in my back that has disabled me. Yet, the doctors show no compassion for my case and give me no medicine. They don't even examine me and when I complain they insult me. I have to put up with all of this because I cannot afford the cost of treatment at a private physician!

Another tour in the hospital's outpatient clinic confirms that negligence is widespread. A long line stands before the physician who gives only one minute of his time to each patient during which he is content to hear the patient's description of his ailment. At exactly 1130, work at the clinic ends.

In the Ahmad Maher Hospital, which is one of the hospitals controlled by the Ministry of Health, we found other farces. Patient 'Abd-al-Hamid Zaki, even in the surgery section said: They want to dismiss me from the hospital even though my wound is still open!

'Ibrahim, another patient, added that the hospital's uncleanliness is unprecedented and that the food is very bad in terms of both quantity and of the way it is prepared and served. Hilmi Muhammad, a patient in the internal medicine section, said: Due to the mistreatment by the nursing staff and the workers, I ask them for nothing so as to spare myself the migration. As for the physicians, they are content to just pass by once every two days!

In the gynecology section, we found that the section toilets are also used as garbage dumps!

as for the food situation in the hospital, it can satisfy nobody. The food is put on a table without any cover to protect it from the flies that crawl all over it. Moreover, there are no doors for the lockers in which the food is kept even though the room is inhabited by mice and vermin! As admitted by the hospital's dietician who says that the hospital administration uses the pretext that the budget cannot withstand the cost of correcting these conditions!

In the al-Sabiqah Hospital, we have heard the same reply from Maj Gen Muhammed 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Hamalawi, the hospital's financial and administrative manager, who has said that the washing machine is broken and that the vibrations are not enough!

Regarding the complaints by some patients that the physicians do not concern themselves with examining the patients of the outpatient clinic, al-Hamalawi has said that the physicians are excused because nearly 1,200 patients visit the clinic daily, keeping in mind that the clinic is open for only 2 hours during which all this number is examined.

At the Helipolis Hospital, which is one of the Therapeutic Organization's hospitals, we met 'Ali Ahmad Sharaf, an employee at al-Nasr Car Company who is being treated in the first class section. Sharaf has said: I have been receiving treatment at the hospital for the past 10 months at the expense of the company which pays 5 pounds daily for the bed only, excluding the cost of the drugs. Still, the physicians are interested in treating the private patients and are slow to treat the likes of us!

Oppression is not confined to the public hospitals but also extends to the private hospitals, as if they are not content with the burning prices [they charge]--prices that are rising daily without any control!

In the private al-Qubbah Hospital, we came across Yusuf 'Ali Abdallah, the owner of a textile mill in Damietta, who was complaining. When we asked him about the reason, he said: I have suffered a lot from the harsh treatment of the nurses who seem to be always angry. When they dress the wound on my festering foot, they do so without cleaning the wound even though a single dressing costs 1.5 pounds! Moreover, the bedsheets are extremely dirty. Yet, they demand from me 10 pounds per night even though they told me when I entered the hospital that the fee was only 8 pounds per night!

When we went to some officials to discuss the causes of this deterioration in the hospitals, Dr Ahmad al-Banhawi, the dean of the 'Ayn Shams School of Medicine, refused to discuss the topic because he is the chairman of the National Party's Health Committee.

Dr 'Ammar Badri, the head of the gynecology and obstetrics section of Umm al-Murayin (Mother of the Egyptians) Hospital, has said that the academic training that the physicians receive is inadequate and that recently

individual physicians find themselves with one of two options when they are appointed in the rural areas: either flee or swerve and make money. Moreover, a number of small and prominent physicians collect surgery fees from the patients even though they perform the surgery in public hospitals.

In Hanti al-Sayyid, the doctors' doyen, has said that there are numerous factors behind the poor standard of service. The scientific standard of the graduate, especially his practical preparation and training, is much lower than what it used to be. Moreover, the Ministry of Health budget is actually small and must be increased. This is a human investment because it protects the productive manpower. Because of the small resources of the hospitals, we find that some of their sections operate at a slower pace; and may even stop working completely, in the last months of the year.

The doctors' doyen has added that the deficiency in preparation and training applies not only to doctors but also to nursing staffs and to the workers.

He has also expressed the belief that the lack of incentives and the small wages of hospital workers contribute to the condition reached by the therapeutic standard in Egypt. This is because he who does not have cannot give.

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SICKNESS CAUSE OF ANNUAL LOSS OF 30 MILLION POUNDS

Cairo Al-SHA'B in Arabic 29 Apr 80 p 9

[Article: "Ninety Million Cases of Sickness Costing Annual Loss of 30 Million Pounds"]

[Text] Researchers at the Scientific Research and Technology Academy have estimated the number of the cases of sickness in the Egyptian countryside at more than 90 million cases distributed over the [rural] population. The material loss resulting from this sickness is no less than 300 (sic) million pounds annually.

The researchers have also found that the same rural citizen is afflicted by more than one disease and that this affects this citizen's life span which is lower in Egypt than it is in the countries advanced in the field of health.

How Have These Diseases Spread?

Concerning the causes behind the spread of these diseases, the researchers have pointed out that the spread of diseases in the countryside results from poor village planning, poor sanitary conditions in the houses, overcrowding in houses, the poor disposal of wastes, the contamination of food and water, the widespread presence of sites for the multiplication of flies, insects and disease-causing parasites, malnutrition--along with the widespread use of drugs--the lack of sanitary awareness, poverty and ignorance among the peasants, the widespread presence of unsanitary habits, such as spitting on floors, defecating in open spaces, using the water of unclean canals and the spread of superstitions.

The researchers also point out that the Egyptian peasant still keeps animal pens and chicken coops within this house and that this causes the multiplication of flies, filth and bad odors and leads to the spread of common animal diseases among people through the consumption of milk and meat, to the frequent contamination of milk, the lack of clean water and the piling up of manure in front of houses, thus helping the multiplication of flies and the spread of bad odors and of contaminated dust in

the air-mail of which create further causes for communicable diseases and eye diseases.

Other Factors Contributing to Poor Conditions of Peasant

The researchers also point out that all these factors have led to the poor condition of the Egyptian farmer. The spread of this condition has been further helped by social factors, the most important of which is the lack of social and economic education. This is something that prevents the proper exploitation of the natural resources and causes the absence of social ties and of the forces of competition.

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SHUKRI EXPLAINS REASON FOR NOT RESIGNING FROM PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 May 80 p 6

[Article: "Ibrahim Shukri Declares at Party's Mayday Celebration: I Have not Resigned From People's Assembly Because Ruling Party Will Be Only Beneficiary; We Will Defend Liberties Despite Issuance of 10-Minute Law; New Working Papers on Urgent Issues Being Discussed by Party"]

[Text] The Socialist Labor Party has celebrated Mayday--Workers Day--and devoted its weekly symposium which was held last Tuesday to the Workers Day. Ibrahim Shukri, the party chairman; Salah 'Atiyah, the workers secretary; Engineer Muhammad Mahdi, the treasurer; and Hamid Zaydan, the chief editor [of Al-SHA'B] addressed the symposium.

Engineer Ibrahim Shukri, the Socialist Labor Party chairman, declared that the party will always defend democracy and freedom, despite the promulgation of the law of shame. Shukri also described the law as an act of retrogression.

Engineer Ibrahim Shukri pointed out at the party's weekly symposium that he had made up his mind to resign from the People's Assembly if the law were issued in its form before it was amended and that he decided to remain in the Assembly after the party members and his friends in the other parties stressed to him the importance of his stay in order that he may express the opinion of the opposition in the Assembly, especially since the Democratic National Party will be the only beneficiary from his resignation.

Our Withdrawal Was no Escape From Discussion

Regarding the stance of the opposition deputies during the vote on the bill, Shukri pointed out that the opposition had agreed in principle to withdraw during the vote on the bill and after rejecting the bill and the detailed discussions on it. He also pointed out that the ruling party deputies' depiction of the withdrawal as an escape from the discussion is not true.

(initiate bill)

Shukri wondered: could the ruling party members have changed their views on the bill?

He said that the bill was presented to and approved by the Legislative Committee in 10 minutes. So, could those who had approved it in 10 minutes reject it afterwards?

Shukri also asserted that the determination to promulgate this law has come in the wake of the revival of other freedom-shackling laws which had been issued in various periods for various reasons and which lacked legality of the law, thus making the courts ignore them frequently.

Question to People's Assembly on Abortive U.S. Operation

Engineer Ibrahim Shukri then proceeded to discuss the abortive U.S. venture in Iran, noting that Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil has asserted that Egypt had had no advance knowledge of the operation.

Shukri also criticized the statements emerging from Egypt to say that the operation's failure was a matter of bad luck. He said that Egypt cannot hold this unique position in the entire world.

He also asserted that the Labor Party is eager for Egypt's relations to be good with the entire world, especially with the Arab, Islamic, African and nonaligned countries.

Working Papers on Urgent Issues Being Discussed by Labor Party

Regarding the Labor Party's movement in the coming phase at both the political and domestic levels, Engineer Ibrahim Shukri declared that the party's Higher Committee will meet tomorrow--Wednesday, 7 May--to prepare for the party's general congress. During the congress meetings, a working paper concerning our urgent issues and containing the party's thinking, which will not be a mere reaction to the other party, will be presented.

He also said that the party will present its own new visualization and will not present an Arab working paper in reaction to the working paper submitted by the ruling party.

Shukri urged the party members to speed up building the party and to increase its membership, saying that the forthcoming meeting of the Higher Committee will be the beginning of a new phase of partisan organization aimed at building a cohesive partisan structure capable of waging battles.

Sinai Agricultural Reform Committee

Engineer Muhammad Mahdi, member of the party's Executive Committee, had opened the symposium by referring to President al-Sadat's announcement that a contract will be signed with a foreign firm for the reclamation of 500,000 feddans for 3 billion dollars and to the conflicting statements issued later on the subject. He said that this contradiction provides an indication of the instability of the final long-range land reclamation plan.

Mahdi demanded the formation of a higher committee to draw up a land reclamation plan and demanded that university professors specialized in social sciences, agronomists and land reclamation experts take part in this committee to draw up a long-range plan.

Mayday for Ruling Party Only!

Salah 'Atiyah, the workers secretary, also addressed the symposium, expressing his regrets for the fact that this year's Mayday celebration was confined to representatives of the ruling party alone. He said: I wish all of Egypt's parties had been represented in this celebration. He said that the Labor Party will, God willing, celebrate Mayday in Sinai after liberation of the last handful of its soil.

'Atiyah also referred to the insane inflation, saying that 95 percent of Egypt's workers and employees who live on their wages alone live under undescribable destitution and misery. Matters have reached the point where a salad plate has become a luxury that very few can afford.

'Atiyah also pointed out that this state is due to the presence of a big gap between wages and prices.

Absence of Planning Is Cause of Our Problems

Hamid Zaydan, chief editor of AL-SHA'B and member of the Labor Party Executive Committee, then addressed the symposium, stressing that the fundamental and main cause of the problems Egypt is experiencing is the absence of planning in all spheres.

He said that with planning, Egypt can overcome all its problems. The Egyptian worker is the one who has done the construction in the Arab area. But this worker needs the true value of the wages [of his work] to be established.

Zaydan also demanded that wages be raised at the rate of inflation.

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CSO: 4802

MINISTER OF PLANNING WANTS FREE PUBLIC SECTOR

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 May 80 p 4

[Article: "Minister of Planning Admits: I Don't Know Who Owns Public Sector"]

[Text] Dr 'Abd-al-Razzaq 'Abd-al-Majid, the minister of planning, has admitted the lost truth to the Public Sector Management and the Peace Challenges Conference--the truth regarding the public sector, its size and who owns it. He has said: The truth is that I don't know who owns the public sector, and I say this in the government's name.

Surprise spread over the faces of all the conference members in attendance who rose and applauded. The minister added: I am truly frank. He also said that the challenges of peace require that we be courageously and strongly frank with ourselves so that we may strengthen the public sector and prevent it from turning into junk.

The minister of planning brought up another issue connected with planning, pointing out that planning has its administrative problems which are embodied in communication with the ministries. At the time of planning, the minister of planning takes a position and, on the other hand, the minister of agriculture or the minister of industry takes a different position. It is the wrestling of professionals. Every minister wants to get the biggest allocations for his ministry and then "task the public sector." What is required is collective action and collective planning according to the priorities and then the translation of this action and this planning into a working plan.

The minister of planning has also said that we find that the major U.S. companies work through planning within the economic unit and that they have no control over them because they operate within a free economy and within the framework of precise planning. Planning under a free system is more successful. The minister of planning has also demanded that freedom be given to the public sector companies to hire and set wages and incentives and to perform other functions that do not restrict the public sector's movement.

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CSO: 4802

OPPOSITION BOYCOTTS VOTE ON LAW OF SHAME

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 May 80 pp 8-9

[Article: "Opposition Opinions on Law of Shame That Have not Been Published by Papers or Broadcast by Television; Ibrahim Shukri Says: I Appeal to You and to Your Conscience Because This Is not Issue of Minority and Majority But Issue of Egypt and of Egyptian People; Dr Kamil Laylah Opposed Law in 1971 and Defends It in 1980; Dr Kamil Laylah Admits and Says: Socialist Prosecutor Has Become Reality and as Long as He Is Mentioned by Constitution, I Am Committed to Defending Him; Mumtaz Nassar Contests Constitutionality of Law of Shame; Shaykh Salah Abu-Isma'il Says: I Was Distressed When I Found That This Bill Refers Us to Laws That Don't Safeguard Islamic Values; Ahmad Yunis Asks: Why Is This Law Issued Now?"]

[Text] The opposition deputies in the People's Assembly boycotted the discussion on the provisions of the law to protect values against shame after having declared their rejection of the spirit and form of the law in principle. These deputies also rejected the arguments used by the National Party deputies and denounced the evasion of the minister of justice and his failure to reply to the facts that they mentioned during the discussion.

The opposition has stressed in its speeches that the new law is a serious turning point on the democratic path, that it constitutes new shackles to the citizen's freedom and that it is a flagrant constitutional violation because it has created duplicity in crime and in the investigation authority. They have also appealed with utter sincerity and honesty to the majority deputies to reject this law, but to no avail.

As a result of the rumors reaching the government that some National Party members intended to oppose the bill, the minister of state for the People's Assembly affairs called for a secret urgent meeting which was held at his office on the eve of discussing the bill. During the meeting, the minister distributed the roles to those with whom the party was to deal with the discussion and answer the opposition. Meanwhile, the minister refused to assign any roles to certain members.

for fear that the law would not receive the approval of an overwhelming majority of the National Party deputies, the National Party secretary general and the minister of state for the People's Assembly affairs held secreted personal contacts with the members. Matters reached the point where the members were alerted by microphones to come to the hall at the time of voting.

Turning Point in Procession

Let us return to the deliberations on the law of shame and to the opinions of the opposition which could not find the opportunity to be published in the national press.

Engineer Ibrahim Shakri, the opposition leader, said that there is no doubt that this law is one that has polarized the attention of the masses and that this attention is neither surprising nor groundless. The masses are always aware of whatever they think undermines their freedom or restricts them. This is why the masses have shown their interest. The law has also assumed special importance in the political parties because of the same goals and ideas and because the parties feel that the law is a turning point in our democratic march.

As parties, we want to push the democratic march a step forward every day. This is the path that President Anwar al-Sadat opened on 15 May toward greater democracy and it is something that the entire area can be proud of.

We have broken away from the sphere of the totalitarian system and entered the system of multiple parties and of opposition papers. Therefore, we must be proud of all the measures that enhance the democratic march.

The opposition leader added: I tell you that all the laws on which the new law is based were issued on certain occasions and to deal with certain matters. The statement that these laws were issued to stay is an altogether faulty statement.

Engineer Ibrahim Shukri also pointed out that when the 1971 constitution was being drafted, there was no agreement among the Constitution Committee members on the provision concerning the socialist public prosecutor and that this provision was inserted without consensus. What is surprising is that one of those who did not approve the provision was Dr Kamil Laylah himself who now stands to defend it.

The opposition leader also dealt with the strange composition of the values court stipulated by this law, saying that this court does not have sufficient guarantees because it is a court appointed by the minister of justice. What is astonishing is that the law has empowered the minister to select the counselors he wishes to the membership of this court, stipulating only that counselors be selected from the court of first instance or the Court of Cassation. The provisions of the law are left vague. What is more, we select public figures and seat them in a judiciary council.

We Oppose Law in Part and Parcel:

Ibrahim Shukri also said: I appeal to you, o majority, and I appeal to your conscience. This issue is not an issue of minority or of majority but an issue of Egypt and of the Egyptian people. I appeal to you for greater democracy and for giving the parties greater freedom of expression. I declare in the name of the Labor Party that we oppose this law in form and spirit and that we will not discuss the details because they change nothing.

In reply, Kamil Abu-Laviah acknowledged what the opposition leader had mentioned but stressed, however, that the socialist public prosecutor has become a reality, as stated by the constitution, and that he is committed to defending him despite his previous opposition.

Unconstitutional Law

Independent Deputy Mumtaz Nassar said: With utter objectivity and for numerous reasons, I oppose this bill. I oppose it in principle and in content. The first of these reasons is that the law undermines a deep-rooted principle in our constitution which we have taken the oath to uphold, namely the principle of the separation of powers stipulated by the constitution.

The provision of the constitution are unanimous that the judge must be independent, impartial and not subject to dismissal. These are the qualities that must characterize a judge. Any statement to the contrary means voiding the provisions of their content.

Mumtaz Nassar also said that he contests the constitutionality of this law and that its provisions call for penalties and not measures, as they have been called. Else, how can we explain the dismissal of a citizen from his job?

The law is also in conflict with the public rights stipulated in articles 41, 42, 47 and 62 of the third section of the constitution. This law undermines, therefore, many of the rights established by the constitution. It would behoove us to regulate, and not abolish, these rights.

Mumtaz Nassar further added: The law gives the socialist public prosecutor powers and jurisdiction that belittle the legal investigation authority. What is also astonishing is that the so-called law combines judiciary power with the power of investigation. It also provides for the duplicity of punishment, considering that the crimes stipulated in this law are also stipulated in the penal code.

Mumtaz Nassar concluded by rejecting the law in form and spirit on the basis of all the reasons that he had noted.

State Council Did not Approve Unanimously

Ahmad Yunis said that he is one of those who oppose this law and that he is against the presence of the socialist prosecutor altogether.

Ahmad Yunis belied the statements alleging that the State Council had approved the bill unanimously. He said: The truth is that the Council met on 15 April, the meeting resulted in a majority opposition to the bill and was then postponed. But the State Council chairman issued, very regrettably and unfortunately, decision No 140 of 1980 to bring in new members into the Legislation Branch and to oust other opposing members. Thus, the second meeting ended with five members opposing the bill and only seven members approving it.

Yunis also asserted that the counselors of the General Assembly of Counselors of the Court of Cassation and of the State Council rejected the bill.

Ahmad Yunis further said: I have returned with my memory to the correction revolution and asked: Why are we issuing this law? In 1973, I and my colleague Nasif Iahun went to the university to face the rebellion of 30,000 students. President al-Sadat's view was that we should leave them alone. The president said: "Let them be. The whole country is upset with the 1967 setback and with the occupation. They must be pardoned and forgiven."

A sectarian sedition did also occur in 1973. A fact-finding committee was formed and the crisis ended. Have there been any new developments in Egypt to require the issuance of this law?

Al-Sadat's regime is firmly established and to those who spread the rumors that our regime is disunited, I say that our regime is firm and, I swear to you, if al-Sadat were to get in his car now and visit any quarter, the masses would carry him on their shoulders and would protect him with their hearts and eyes. We may oppose on some issues but we underline our appreciation, respect and love for al-Sadat. None of us can ignore what al-Sadat has given us.

Minister of Justice Acts Evasively

Ahmad Yunis asked: Who are the public figures who will be included in this court? Can't we remember the time when a court was formed to try the lackeys of the centers of power. I was a member of this court and the inexperienced Ahmad Yunis wore a judge's ribbons to try. And whom? 'Ali Sabri, Sha'rawi Jum'ah and the country's leading men. We had the power to imprison people in a secure place, such as al-Qal'ah Prison! I declare my rejection and my denunciation of this law.

Counselor Anwar Abu-Sahli, the minister of justice, evaded providing a reply to the incident of the State Council's rejection of the bill.

In the face of Abu-Talib's insistence that the truth be clarified, the minister made no comment other than to say that the general assembly and the Court of Cassation have no power to examine this bill.

What Shame Will Law Fight?

Sheikh Salih Abu-Isma'il, an independent, said: We must return to God's book and to the sunna of His prophet to learn the truth and to know what they say regarding judges.

No man can hold the position of a judge. Even Solomon revoked a sentence made by his father, David, may God's peace be upon him.

The Koran has guaranteed justice by nullifying any sentence contradicting God's revealed orders. I had rejoiced at the name of the law, imagining that all that there was to the matter was the protection of values. I had dreamt while reading the name that we would be protecting every value. But I was distressed when I found the law referring us to the laws in force which do not really protect the Islamic values, which do not establish God's restrictions and which pronounce the adulterer not guilty even when he confesses his adultery. So what shame will this law fight?

If you want to protect values, then rule by what God has revealed.

I blame the legislative authority because it has shunned God's law, I blame the judiciary authority because it has judged contrary to what God has revealed and I blame the executive authority because it has carried out a sentence contrary to what God has ordered. Return to God and to the Koran. Do we fight shame in a name other than the name of God? This Bill is incapable of protecting all the values, having confined itself to the known laws and the existing provisions.

Sheikh Abu-Isma'il then proceeded to political questioning, saying: On what basis will the citizen be tried and what political currents are the ones that the law will seek to establish in order to protect the values? What is permitted in politics today was forbidden yesterday and what was forbidden yesterday is permitted today. Do we permit the fates of people to be under the mercy of political currents? Do we fail to subject these fates to a logical rule and allow them to be subjected to whims that change from one moment to another?

Sheikh Salih Abu-Isma'il wondered about the position of the new law toward God's restrictions. [He also said]: If the case is one of violation [of these restrictions] then the president of the republic has no power to pardon the violation of an established restriction and the party with the right of pardon is the guardian [of a victim] or his (kisman), despite respect and esteem for the president of the republic.

As far as creating or sentencing people to political isolation, we have already seen that in political isolation, detention camps and the encroaching upon your liberties.

Addressing the majority party members, Salah Abu-Tuma'li said: You have given the slogan of science and faith and then devolved it of its meaning. Return to Islam our youth and task them, take yourselves to task. Finally, I know that the decision is taken here by vote and not by opinion.

When the opposition members noticed the determination of the majority public to promulgate the law, they walked out of the hall. This was an opportunity for some to hold a hasty discussion of the provisions.

And thus the law was issued.

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ISSUE OF IDEAL PARTNERSHIP AROUSES HEATED DISCUSSION IN PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 May 80 p 9

[Article by Zaynab 'Amir: "Ideal Company Issue Started in Al-SHA'B and Moved to People's Assembly"]

[Text] The report that Al-SHA'B published in a previous edition about the plan to sell the Egyptian Ideal Company to the French Thomson Company has become the subject of a heated discussion in the People's Assembly started by two Assembly members, namely Tawfiq Zaghlul from the National Party and Dr Ibrahim 'Awwarah, independent, who submitted two queries on the truth of what has been published in AL-SHA'B.

Member Tawfiq Zaghlul has pointed out that the joint project between the Egyptian company and the French company gives the latter 51 percent of Ideal's shares and retains 49 percent of the shares for Ideal itself.

Zaghlul has also pointed out that the economic studies stress that if Ideal were to develop the Almazah Plant, the annual profit will amount by 1983 to 29 million pounds and that in case of partnership, Ideal's profits will amount to 16 million pounds only.

Moreover, the protocol signed by Ideal and Thomson prohibits Ideal from producing goods similar to what the Thomson Company will produce. The protocol also stipulates that the incentive pay given to workers not exceed 100 percent [the basic wages]. This is in contrast to what is happening at present, considering that the workers earn at present nearly 200 percent [the sum of their wages] in incentive pay and this encourages increased production and income.

Addressing the Assembly, Deputy Ibrahim 'Awwarah, has said: The idea of getting Ideal into partnership with a foreign firm emerged in 1976 when the present minister of industry was chairman of Ideal's Board of Directors. The idea called at the time for partnership with the Italian Zanus Company and the approval of the Investment Authority of the principle of setting up a new company plant for the production of refrigerators and other electrical appliances was acquired. However, the matter ended with the

success of the civilian ship and the failure to complete the project for material reasons. In the same year, negotiations with the French Thomson company started.

Dr. Jafar Al-Awadi has also pointed out that the original idea called for setting up a new plant for refrigerators and washing machines to raise the production to 560,000 refrigerators and 320,000 washing machines annually, with final carrying on with its work and production. But the negotiations came when Thomson Company demanded to participate with 51 percent of the capital. This means that Thomson will have full control of management.

What is astonishing is that Ideal owns a capital of 88 million pounds, of which 24 millions are in operational capital and 64 millions in the form of capital invested in work sites, showrooms and plants. Moreover, Thomson Company has made it a condition that the value of Ideal Company's sites, showrooms and plants in Almazah, Nasr City and the central city be assessed on the basis of the purchase price and not the current market price and that, on top, a consumption cost be also deducted from this value.

The deputy added: Thomson Company has further demanded that it get five percent of the profits in hard currency in return for participation by the main office in Paris [sic] and 1.2 million pounds in return for the use of its trademark.

What is still more astonishing is that the Thomson Company has demanded that it take over Ideal's showrooms in the central city and that it display all their Thomson Company products.

Thomson has also refused to commit itself to exporting 30 percent of the total production for sale abroad.

The deputy has also pointed out that the Investment Authority, which includes in its membership a number of ministers, the Central Accounting Agency and the Administrative Control, rejects the plan but that the Minister [of Industry] insists on it.

The minister of industry then said that he has not rejected or approved the plan and that there are points of agreement and points of disagreement over which the negotiations are still going on and that he will present the outcome of the agreement in its final form to the Assembly before any decisions are made. If the agreement is not approved, then he will be the first to support this rejection.

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DR. JAFAR

CAUSES OF MEAT SHORTAGE PROBLEMS, SOLUTIONS DISCUSSED

Cairo Al-SHA'B in Arabic 6 May 80 p 9

[Article by Fatin al-Tuhani and Dr Ibrahim al-Nimr: "Minister's Decrees Will not Solve Meats Problem"]

[Text] The problem of meats is intensifying day after day and the people's complaints are endless. The problem will not be solved by a "minister's decree" because the decree maker may not know that the problem has roots and residues dating back to the early 1970's and summed up in the lack of a plan to protect the livestock resources against animal diseases, in the lack of fodder and in the big role that the butcher plays in meat production.

But what is needed? How can the ideal solution be formulated so that meats may become available and so that meat problems may not keep the man-in-the-street sleepless.

Without Plan

Dr Thana' al-Bnz, a researcher at the Animal Health Research Institute, says that disease control and protecting Egypt's livestock resources cannot be realized without a plan. Many of the prevalent diseases are virus diseases that cannot be treated when they spread. The only cure is prevention and securing the necessary vaccines.

Animal Research Centers Are Idle

Here we find that the major role falls on the shoulders of livestock and vaccination production centers. How is work going on in these centers? In 1978, the director of physiological diagnosis in the Livestock Health Center decided to appropriate a part of the laboratory producing vaccines for virus diseases on the pretext of producing the vaccines necessary to deal with the (death valley) disease entering the country with the livestock imported from Sudan. It would have been better to set up a special laboratory for this disease because the scientific rules in operation prohibit the use of the laboratories producing vaccines for endemic

of known and control one disease [sic] so that infection may not be communicated to our way to the main laboratories that supply their vaccines to all the veterinary units.

newspaper-Vietnam (1968)

In Dr. 'Abd al-Ghaffar, head of the section which supervises the U.S. project for disease treatment, has put the mice farm used for vaccine research right in the middle of the vaccine production laboratory because the laboratory set up in al-'Abbasiyah Desert is not equipped to receive mice and because no precautions have been taken in this laboratory to prevent the entry of mountain mice which could spread disease to the surrounding environment.

The violations do not end at this because the operation of the entire section has been cancelled.

From the study conducted on the [death valley] disease, it became evident that the rate of infection amounted to 35 percent and that 4 million doses of the special vaccine for this disease were needed. After 2 years of experiments and at the International conference on (calf mortality) which was held at the Cairo School of Veterinary Medicine last March, the supervisor in charge of vaccine production announced that only 200,000 doses of the needed vaccine had been produced!

Supplying Females

In Ahmad Dakha, the director of the Genetic (al-tanasiliyat) Research Center in al-Baran, adds that considering the farmer a livestock breeder and producer is a grave mistake because the farmer's conditions are not changing and he is not able to produce enough to meet his needs.

The grave mistake lies in the fact that the government is still tackling the problem of meats through plans that seek to supply meat temporarily and without any plan to deal with the problem as one from which all the people suffer. The government is supposed to set up farms to produce young female animals and calves and supply them to the farmers and small breeders at reasonable prices. Statistics indicate that 40 percent of the female animals existing at present are sterile and that 30 percent of the calves die in the first few months after birth.

Butcher's Role

Despite the increased number of automatic slaughterhouses, the butcher still plays a prominent role in supplying meats. However, what is needed is to set up companies or units that undertake the operation of purchasing livestock from the market and delivering to the slaughterhouses from which the butcher then gets his meats fully prepared. The practice whereby the butcher himself purchases the livestock must be stopped.

The third aspect of the problem is the lack of fodders and their high prices. Despite the announcement on the opening of new fodder plants, fodder prices are rising steadily. Ahmad 'Abbas, a livestock breeder from al-Badrashin area, says that the volume of chaff allocated for every head (of cattle) is 70 kilograms whereas the volume actually supplied is 50 kilograms only.

'Ashur 'Abd-al-Hamid, secretary of the Zamiyat Dahshur Cooperative, adds that the cooperative has a contract with the Ministry of Agriculture in accordance with which the latter is supposed to supply fattening feed whereas the fodder received is fodder used for milk production, does not serve the purpose and raises the meat prices futilely.

The new meat prices always meet their death by the knife of the butcher. But how can a price satisfactory to the breeder, the butcher and the consumer be set? It is the price set by our livestock production professors in the schools of agriculture, in cooperation with the butchers and the breeders.

Finally, this is not intended to be an attack against the two [sic] ministers inasmuch as it is a notification to them so that the roots of the problem may not continue to exist. Dealing with the problem of meat shortage does not lie in a minister's decree. It is a problem that requires a solution in which all the agricultural, supply and economy authorities take part.

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BRIEFS

DISAGREEMENT IN NATIONAL PARTY--The sharp disagreement between the members of the National Party Political Bureau in Alexandria is being discussed. This disagreement became evident in the Political Bureau's meeting with the National Party leadership in Alexandria at the end of last month when a group demanded return of the party's former secretary general to the party whereas another group demanded sticking with the present secretary general. A third group emerged to demand a new party secretary general in Alexandria who is not a university professor. AL-SHA'B has learned that a political investigation is being conducted on the actions of a number of the members of the Alexandria Political Bureau in the wake of the decisions issued by the National Party's secretary in the governorate to solve the problems of the students living in the university town in Alexandria and the refusal of the university president to carry out those decisions. [Text] [Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Apr 80 p 4] 8494

OPEN-DOOR ECONOMY PRIVILEGES--Dr Muhammad 'Ali Rif'at, the former chairman of the Egyptian Industries Union, has said that the privileges and concessions given to the open-door economy companies "remind us of some of the foreign privileges in Egypt." In a study discussed by the conference of Egyptian economists held at the end of last month, Dr Rif'at has revealed serious facts concerning the negative aspects of the open-door economy and said that the most serious of these negative aspects is the granting of a number of privileges and concessions to these companies that remind us of some [past] foreign concessions. Moreover, these concessions have put the Egyptian companies in a worse position, have weakened their ability to compete and have threatened them with recession, not to say total stoppage. [Text] [Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Apr 80 p 4] 8494

POLLUTION IN PORT SAID--The fear of pollution is threatening Port Said because of the plan to build a cement plant in the city. The proponents of the project, which is a foreign investment project, have submitted a study prepared by U.S. experts which says that implementation of the project poses no danger to the environment. Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the director of manpower in Port Sa'id, has stated that a committee of industrial safety and vocational health experts formed by the minister

government is currently preparing a detailed scientific report on the dangers of city pollution and the threat it poses to the health of its residents and visitors. [Text] [Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Apr 80 p 4] 8494

STUDENTS REFUSE TO RETURN--There is a serious report before Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, the minister of education and scientific research, on the Egyptians sent abroad on scholarships who refuse to return home after acquiring their PH.D's and after the Egyptian people's money is spent on them. The report shows that the rate of those who go to study abroad at the expense of the state after acquiring the PH.D is increasing, that it is estimated at 41 percent and that the scholarships that do not return to the homeland have cost the state more than 10 million pounds in hard currency and that they refuse to return to the homeland that has spent on educating them in the United States and Europe [sic]. The report also shows that a large percentage of those who refuse to return to the homeland have acquired doctorates in mathematics, computer sciences, medicine and economy. The report demands, in view of this serious phenomenon, that the dispatch of people abroad on scholarships be confined to scarce specializations, that the dispatch of scientific missions be expanded after the acquisition of the doctorate degree at home and that the awarding of doctorate degrees at home be also expanded. [Text] [Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Apr 80 p 5] 8494

NEW LABOR PARTY COMMITTEE--Engineer al-Sa'di 'Abd-al-Hamid, member of the Socialist Labor Party Executive Committee and the party official in charge of al-Minya and Upper Egypt, has stated that a party committee has been formed in the village of Bani Warkan, the provincial center of al-'Adwah District of al-Minya Governorate, of: Fayiz 'Abd-al-Maqsud, secretary; Ahmad Jad and Muhammad Ahmad al-Jundi, assistant secretaries; and Muhammad 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abdallah, treasurer. The committee includes the following as members: Fayiz Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Jayyid, Ramadan Muhammad 'Atris, Ramadan 'Ali Hasan, 'Ali 'Ayyad Ibrahim, 'Abd-al-Jawad Qutub Mahmud, Husayn 'Abd-al-Muhsin 'Abd-al-Salam and Ramadan Ahmad Hammad, the last as youth official. [Text] [Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 29 Apr 80 p 2] 8494

TELEPHONE PROBLEMS--The Suez Canal University in Ismailia cannot communicate with Cairo. The university's telephones have turned into pieces of junk. Dr 'Abd-al-Majid 'Uthman, the Suez Canal University president, is unable to communicate with Cairo. An international conference has been held in Cairo and all the universities, with the exception of the Suez Canal University, have taken part in it. The reason is the telephone lines that are out of operation! AL-SHA'B: This means that AL-SHA'B newspaper is not the only establishment without a telephone because the minister of telephones has not inserted "immediately" in his approval [of the requests submitted for telephones]. [Text] [Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 29 Apr 80 p 4] 8494

EGYPTIAN MARITIME COMPANY'S SUBSIDY--AL-SHA'B has learned that the subsidy allocated in this year's budget for the Egyptian Maritime Transport Company amounts to 6 million pounds and that the company's losses amounted by the end of last year to 3,318,227 pounds. We publish this report without comment and wait for the reply of the Central Accounting Agency. [Text] [Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 29 Apr 80 p 4] 8494

EGYPTIAN MARINE LAW--Dr Majeed Shafiq, a Cairo University professor, has criticized the Egyptian marine law, saying that despite the open-door policy, no amendments have been introduced into this law. The professor has pointed out that no amendments have been introduced into this law since its promulgation in 1961. [Text] [Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 29 Apr 80 p 4] 8494

EGYPTIAN LABOR TRADE--The Central Organization and Management Agency is currently preparing a study on the Korean experiment in preparing and training skilled labor from among armed forces conscripts with the aim of exporting this skilled labor to the outside world as a source of income for Egypt. [Text] [Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 29 Apr 80 p 4] 8494

SOCIALIST PARTY WORKING PAPER--AL-SHA'B has learned that an invitation has been addressed to the members of the Socialist Labor Party Higher Committee which will prepare for the party's first congress to hold its meeting on Wednesday, 7 May, at the party headquarters in al-Qubbah Gardens. AL-SHA'B has also learned that the Higher Committee will include the party's Executive Committee members, the present and former People's Assembly members who are party members, the party secretaries in the governorates, the leaderships that have taken part in the efforts to establish the party since it started its activities, a number of public figures who are party members and youth and women representatives. AL-SHA'B has further learned that Engineer Ibrahim Shukri, the party chairman, will present to the Higher Committee a working paper dealing with issues concerning party organization in the important forthcoming phase. Shukri will also present a study on the most important current foreign and domestic issues. AL-SHA'B will publish this paper in the next edition. [Text] [Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 29 Apr 80 p 5] 8494

LACK OF DISCIPLINE CRITICIZED--Dr Hasan Tawfiq, the Central Organization and Management Agency chairman, has admitted that 50 percent of our leaderships in the public sector and the government are not fit to hold the leadership positions in the government and public sector apparatus. At the Public Sector Management and Peace Challenges Conference, the agency chairman added that the weak leadership in a number of the public sector and government apparatus units is behind the lack of discipline on the part of workers. There is no discipline on the part of the chairman of the board and there is no discipline on the part of the smallest worker. The agency chairman has also pointed out that while we find timeliness, respect for work and production and reverence for time abroad,

we find in the public sector and government work positions workers reading newspapers and solving crossword puzzles, discussing nothing other than soccer and rushing to the cooperatives in a race for food supplies! On the other hand, the Central Organization and Management Agency chairman has also criticized the work incentives system followed in Egypt, pointing out that incentives are given, very regrettably, to the public sector and government workers without any return in work! The agency chairman stressed the need to study the work incentives system on the basis of production efficiency. He has also urged that no incentive pay be given unless a tangible return in production and services is present. [Text] [Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 May 80 p 4] 8494

CSO: 4802

EGYPT

JUL(AH) GROUP SAYS COPTIC SCHEMES BEHIND SECTARIAN SEDITION

Cairo Al-DA'WAH in Arabic Jun 80 pp 22-23

{Statement Issued by the Islamic Group: "The Real Dimensions of Sectarian Sedition"}

[Text] Under these stifling conditions surrounding Egypt, such as Egypt's isolation from the Arab and Islamic countries, its subjugation to Israel's intransigence and arrogance and its severe economic hardship, Egypt's Copts fabricate a domestic sectarian sedition with the aim of gaining new positions and realizing sectarian gains at the expense of Islam and the Muslims.

Even though this attitude, especially under this critical circumstance, is unethical, we will continue to observe in this statement the policy of self-restraint and of wrath-suppression that we have followed in our actual conduct. We will focus the lights on the motives of this sedition and will underline its goals and purposes with utter objectivity, seeking guidance from the venerable phrase with which we have opened this statement so as to foil their [the Copts'] opportunity and their machinations and to draw the attention of the unaware to the plot.

The Islamic conquest came to Egypt when it was a Roman colony and when its people were humiliated and enslaved by the Romans who were Christians like the Egyptian people, but of a different rite. To force the Egyptians to adopt the state's official religion, the Romans committed against the Egyptians massacres that turn babies' hair gray. Islam came and saved the Egyptians from this humiliating torture, freed them from their slavery, restored their dignity and covered them with its justice and so hordes of Egyptians adopted God's religion, replaced their language by the language of the Koran and fused with the Muslim Arabs.

Some of the Egyptians retained their religion and the Muslims left them and their beliefs alone and treated them in accordance with the principles of Islam, guaranteeing them rights they had never dreamt of:

Islam guaranteed them the right of belief and worship--"no coercion in religion"--and protected them against foreign aggression and internal injustice, thus making their blood, their lives and their property inviolable in accordance with the Islamic principle of "they are entitled to what we are entitled to and they shoulder what we shoulder" and in application of the Hadith of the prophet, may God's peace and prayers be upon him, which says: "He who kills a man enjoined by covenant [mu'ahid], undermines his right, takes anything away from him by force or saddles him with burdens beyond his capacity, then I shall be his foe on the day of resurrection." Islam also gave the Egyptians the freedom of work and movement and granted them the right to hold state positions, except for positions of Islamic religious nature. Islam even secured them against disability, poverty and old age. Islam did all this in return for their respecting the religious sentiments of the Muslims, for abiding by the Islamic state law on matters not pertaining to personal status affairs and for fulfilling some financial duties toward the state.

The Egyptian Christians continued to enjoy these rights for numerous centuries. But in recent times, we have been surprised by the call claiming that the Christians are the real owners of Egypt and that the Muslims are usurping occupiers who must be expelled and of whom the country must be liberated. It seems that Islamic tolerance has enticed the Christians and made them think that this tolerance is nothing but weakness. They have also taken Israel's expulsion of the Palestinians as an example to be followed.

Schemes have been started to bring this goal closer and the Christians have done the following:

1. They have exaggerated their numbers, claiming that they are 8 millions whereas the latest official census asserts that their number does not exceed 2.5 millions.
2. They have called for increased childbirth and have prohibited birth control.
3. They have built large numbers of churches to give the false impression that they are numerous.
4. They have tried to control the country's economic resources and the country's main state positions.
5. They have devoted extreme attention to education.
6. They have claimed constantly and on a wide scale that they are persecuted so as to realize material and moral gains.

As a result of this policy, they have actually realized what they had aspired for and this has whet their appetite and tempted them to become greedy for more and they now want:

1. To have eight ministerial positions allocated for Christians.
2. To have one quarter the higher commands in the army and the police.
3. To have one quarter the civilian leadership positions, such as the positions of governors, undersecretaries, general directors, chairmen of city councils and so forth.
4. To have the pope hold in the political protocol a position behind that of the head of state and ahead of that of the prime minister.
5. To be permitted to establish their own university and their own broadcasting station.

All this is in preparation for controlling the country and expelling the Muslims from it. When these unfair demands were denied them, they started to fill the world with cries and clamor against the persecution to which they are subjected and they have exploited the presence of their communities in the United States, Canada and Australia and have instructed them to play this role. Here is a clear quotation from one of their publications in the State of New Jersey in which they say: "The press, meaning the Egyptian press, has brought us the news of a popular referendum to amend some of the Egyptian constitution's provisions. What concerns us as Christian people in Egypt and in exile is article two of the constitution which is to be changed from bad to worse and to state that the Islamic Shari'a is the source of all legislation (meaning that all legislation shall emanate from the Islamic Shari'a and that there should be no other sources). You, brother Christian, know what this means to you as a Christian. In case this article is put into effect, the ruler will have the right to color all legislation with the Islamic hue which will result in the following:

1. "God's religion is Islam, meaning that there will be no recognition of Christianity as a religion in Egypt.
2. "No testimony by a non-Muslim against a Muslim will be accepted, i.e. there will be no equality between Christian and Muslim before the law.
3. "Do not appoint Jews or Christians as your guardians, meaning that the Christians will be denied leadership positions.
4. "No Muslim shall be hurt in his livelihood and no path shall be blocked in his face," meaning the destruction of the Christians economically.
5. "The earth and what is upon it belong to God and to the prophet and the Muslims after him, meaning that the Muslims will be permitted to seize the ownership of Christian property."

the Christians also have: "O Copts in Egypt and abroad, make known your condemnation and your protest of the injustice and the schemes in which the American government is participating with the Islamic organizations in order to carry out the Hitlerian scheme to destroy the Christian people at the right time."

We are most strongly surprised by these open lies and we wonder: Is there a minority in the world enjoying that the Christian minority is being enjoyed?

The Muslim minorities, even the Muslim majorities governed by Christian rulers in the Philippines, Eritrea, Tanzania and Uganda, are exposed to persecution and annihilation. Despite this, we are committed to acting benevolently toward the Christians and to being fair to them in accordance with the teachings of the venerable Koran. Is ingratitude the reward for this tolerance?

Finally, in this critical period which we have already described, we find the Christians fabricating clashes with the Muslims in Alexandria and al-Minya at the instructions of the church and we find at the same time Pope Shenoudah retreating to Wadi al-Natrun Monastery and boycotting the Christian holiday celebrations in protest of the alleged persecution. Furthermore, instructions go to their communities abroad to stage demonstrations of protest, to distribute leaflets and to publish press advertisements in the United States against the [Egyptian] head of state.

Now the hidden has become known and the threads of the plot have become clear: let there be clashes, let people get killed, let the bewailing voices rise, let the proof of persecution be established, let the entire world condemn the brutality of Islam and let the pressures on Egypt intensify so that gains may be made by the Christians and so that these gains may bring them a step, or steps, closer to the main goal, namely the goal of expelling the Muslims from Egypt.

Their demands contain evident phased goals, foremost of which is postponement of the application of the Islamic Shari'a on the pretext that it does them an injustice. They have forgotten that the Islamic Shari'a freed them from slavery, taught them dignity and restored their pride.

There is then the demand for harassing the Islamic caliph and restricting the advocates of Islam--and this constitutes a big gain for them--and the dissemination of the false impression that every Egyptian decision is made in Washington. This is confirmed by instigation of the sedition at this particular time.

Are we going to fall into the snare laid for us and respond to these wishes?

... always we have been most patient so do not to give them the pretext
to call us back again and again to embarrass the officials before the
people, we did not prepared to relinquish one atom of our religion or a
single word of our Islamic laws.

Secondly, the truth will become evident and that the scheme has become clear,
so longer

Third, adherence to Islam and application of God's Shar'i'a.

Fourth, strengthening the advocates of Islam and encouraging their call.

Fifth, revealing the facts to the people and bringing to account those
who instigate the sedition, without any embarrassment or sensitivity.

Sixth releasing the Muslims arrested in al-Minya for no guilt or sin.

第七, eliminating the dictatorship of the minority which is occurring
under the pretext of protecting the national unity.

Eighth, giving the Muslim ulema their right to select the grand mufti
without any governmental intervention, restoring the usurped awqaf
(charitable trusts) of the Muslims to their owners and spending their
expenses for the charities for which the trusts had been designated and
reinstate al-Azhar ulema who have been banned from preaching in mosques.

We should also not forget to address a sincere piece of advice from the
heart to our Christian citizens, namely that they should remember the good
that Islam has done them since its light rose over Egypt, that they should
show benevolence with gratitude, that they should respect the principles
of the Muslim majority, that they should rest assured that the Islamic
Shari'a will guarantee them the rights that it has guaranteed for their
predecessors and that they should pay no attention to the tendentious
who are seeking personal leadership at their expense and at the expense
of Egypt.

Truth wins the truth and leads to the right path.

SAH
1982 MED

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW CITIES DISCUSSED

Int'l Al-DA'WAH in Arabic Jun 80 pp 58-59

[Article: "Ministry of Development and of New Communities: Projects for Development of New Cities"]

[Text] New Communities Authority: This authority has the jurisdiction of supervising the development of new cities and of supplying the requirements needed by the projects carried out in these cities, such as providing the investments and the financing, drawing up the policies for selling and leasing lands and providing the necessary labor.

The 10 Ramadan City:

It is located at a distance of 57 kilometers from Cairo on the Cairo-Ismailia road. It extends over an area of 14,000 feddans, will accommodate one half million people by the year 2000 and will provide 150,000 work opportunities when completed.

Housing:

A total of 3,213 housing units have already been built. They include 1,768 conventional housing units, 528 prefabricated housing units, 500 multi-phased [possibly meaning split-level] housing units and 417 villas. A total of 2,000 housing units have already been handed over to occupants and life began in the city as of 1 April 1980.

Industry:

A number of companies have been set up and a number of plants opened to serve the construction and development goals in the city, including:

A pre-compressed concrete plant for the production of concrete piping.

A construction company to carry out works built with prefabricated concrete.

A company for door, window and furniture carpentry.

Plants for paints, tiles, piping, electrical appliances, retreading tires, food processing, textiles, synthetic sponge, metal works and synthetic fibers.

Agriculture:

A total of 6,000 timber and fruit trees have already been planted and 10,000 square meters have been planted with forest trees.

Services and Utilities

A total of 4 mosques, 4 elementary schools, 4 commercial markets, 8 kindergartens and an automatic bakery have been built. The city also has a number of most modern language schools.

Work on the first stage of the beltway surrounding the city has been completed and the internal roads adjacent to the residential areas, the industrial zone and the city's main entrances have also been paved.

Work on the construction of the first phase of the drainage and sewerage network has been completed.

The city has been linked with the republic's electricity networks.

Al-Sadat City:

It is located at Kilometer 93 on the Cairo-Alexandria highway. It has an area of 48 square kilometers and will accommodate one half million people by the year 2000.

The city's 1978-83 five-year plan calls for accommodating 60,000 people and providing 25,000 work opportunities, building 7,376 housing units in 4 residential areas and supplying the services and utilities needed for these areas.

At the beginning of 1980, the lands in the first industrial zone will be handed over to investors to build their projects. This zone has an acreage of 400,000 square meters.

The road, electricity, water and sewerage networks for the first four residential areas and for the first industrial zone will be constructed this year.

The planting of a green belt around the city, with an acreage of 400 feddans, will be started this year to shield the city against winds and sands. An area of 50 feddans will also be planted with trees as a nucleus for the first forest.

A number of artesian wells have been drilled to supply the city with water. Electricity has also been supplied to the city from Wadi al-Natrun power plant by a 17-kilometer long powerline.

15 May City:

The site of the city has been selected at a distance of 2 kilometers south of the old city of Hulwan. This city's area is 28 square kilometers and will accommodate 150,000 people when completed.

The city planning provides for building 30,000 housing units, a secondary school, a hospital, a police station, a social unit and administrative buildings.

The first phase calls for the construction of 2 residential quarters, each with 6 neighborhoods and each neighborhood with an area of 30 feddans and 1,000 housing units. A neighborhood will also contain two kindergartens, an elementary school and a preparatory school, a commercial market and worship houses. Sixty percent of the area of each neighborhood has been set aside for green spaces and parks.

The city has been supplied with electricity by way of a transformer plant with a capacity of 50 megawatts 66/11 kilovolts [sic]. It has also been supplied with water from overhead reservoirs with a capacity of 500 cubic meters each. The city's utilities are independent.

Construction of the internal roads and of the beltway surrounding the city and linking it to the autostrad is underway. The total length of the roads is nearly 50 kilometers.

A total of 5,000 housing units in the city will be handed over to their owners this year.

Al-'Amiriyah City:

It is located 60 kilometers west of Alexandria and south of Burj al-'Arab. Its area amounts to 11,000 feddans and will accommodate one half million people and provide 150,000 work opportunities by the year 2000.

The city's 1979-83 five-year plan has allocations of 111 million pounds, of which nearly 20 millions are for 1980.

A total of 1,000 housing units have been built this year.

The service buildings already under construction include: A kindergarten, an elementary school, a preparatory school, worship houses, a health center, a commercial market, a police station, fire stations and a post and telegraph office.

The main street in the city, the network of internal roads, the power plant, a pipeline to supply the city with water and the drainage and sewerage networks will be built this year.

Al-'Ubud [Crossing] City

It is being built at a distance of 30 kilometers from Cairo on the Cairo-Bilbis desert road. Its area amounts to 3,000 feddans of desert lands adjacent to al-Khanakah District. The city will accommodate 350,000 people and is being planned so as to include zones for industrial projects.

6 October City

It is being built on the Cairo-al-Fayyum highway. It has an area of nearly 3,000 feddans and will accommodate 350,000 people. The city's general planning sets aside large areas for industrial projects. Other areas have also been set aside for the vocational unions to build housing projects for their members. Negotiations are currently underway with vocational unions and cooperatives to set aside lands in the city for housing projects for their members.

Al-Amal [Hope] City

It is being built at Kilometer 27 of al-Qutamiyah road linking al-Ma'adi with al-'Ayn al-Sukhnah. The city's area is nearly 3,000 feddans and it will accommodate 250,000 people. A work team comprised of experts of the Development Planning Authority and of Cairo University professors has been formed to complete the studies concerning this city.

Other cities are under study.

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9 Sept. '80
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